



A Course In Miracles

MINI GUIDE

FOR REVIEW OF THE

TEXT

by J. Merton

II

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Mini Guide
for Reviewing the
Text

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Preface

This is an abridged version of the *Text* of *A Course In Miracles*. It is intended as a portable refresher for use by contemplators and teachers of vision. Most of the chapter sections occupy about a single page, for an initial study or convenient review.

A Course In Miracles can be viewed as being presented in two parallel threads. Some of the discussion is based on theological rhetoric and some uses psychological language. As the *Course* itself states, one's study of the full text is necessary, as it contains important theoretical material. However, an emphasis on the psychological approach demonstrates that the *Course* sits on quite solid scientific grounds. This Mini-Guide concentrates on the gist of the psychological theory, providing an introduction to those who may be a bit resistant to pure theology. Still, the theology is not purged, as this discussion often helps to clear misconceptions that are common even in the twenty-first century.

The *Course* may be the most powerful, and comprehensive spiritual program that is both readily accessible and currently appropriate. Those misled souls who are merely tinkering and dipping their toes in the *Course*, and not intending to seriously work the lessons, could still make use of this Guide. You must understand that with this superficial approach you will never achieve Clear Eyes or a Body Full of Light. (Matt. 6:22)

The *Course* doesn't work unless you **Work** it.

May all Seekers become Workers !!!

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*Everything has already been said,
But because no one really listens,
We always have to start at the beginning.*

*Remember to recognize
your need to exercise constant
vigilance and attention
to acceptance of
deep patience and the
creation of focus.*

(Or the Last Step will not occur.)

The Most Important Meaning

The *Course* equates meaning with purpose. If a thing or a concept has a purpose, this must also be its meaning.

The purpose of the *Course* is to spend a year in preparation for an event referred to as the Final or Last Step, which God promises to take himself. This, therefore, is the meaning of the *Course*, and the lessons themselves have not any other initial or final meaning. The salvation of others, any other purposes, even your own ultimate function, are secondary until the Final Step is achieved. (Ch. 28, §3)

Manic monologues mulling metaphysical minutiae have no place in the *Text*, *Workbook* or *Manual*. Writing an analysis of the *Course*, obviously being a single individual's point of view, is of value strictly to the writer. The *Course* itself insists that secondary material should not be added.

Only the student's own personal analysis is of value to the student. While some secondary material may be of some use to some teachers, it is nothing but an absolute distraction to students. The student should *work* the Lessons.

The basic points of the *Course* are simple to understand, and only these really need to be understood. The basis of *A Course In Miracles* is, quite literally stated, that the brain injects misinterpretation into your perception and this fogs the real world, causing you to *not see* things as they actually are.

The brain can be upgraded by numerous methods, including the totally consistent application of a few very basic ideas, such as:

- Remembrance.
- Be kind to all who do not deserve.
- Be peace; never defend.
- Be quiet; don't do, listen.

The only real value to be obtained is from WORKING. Watching documentaries about space travel will not make you into an astronaut.

*One exception held apart from true
perception makes its accomplishments
anywhere impossible.*

(Introduction to Workbook for Students)

Chapter 1 - The Meaning of Miracles

Introduction

This is a course in miracles. It is a required course. Only the time you take it is voluntary. Free will does not mean that you can establish the curriculum. The course does not aim at teaching the meaning of love, for that is beyond what can be taught. It does aim at removing the blocks to the **awareness** of love's presence, which is your natural inheritance. The opposite of love is fear, but what is all encompassing can have no opposite. This course can be summed up very simply in this way:

Nothing real can be threatened.

Nothing unreal exists.

Herein lies the peace of God.

The *Ur Text* has the following additions:

You will see miracles thru your hands thru me.

You should begin each day with the prayer:

Help me to perform whatever miracles
you want of me today.

Chapter 1 - The Meaning of Miracles

§1 - Principles of Miracles

1. There is no order of difficulty in miracles.
3. Miracles occur naturally as expressions of love..
4. All miracles mean life, and God is the giver of life.
6. Miracles are natural.
7. Miracles are everyone's right.
8. Miracles are healing because they supply a lack.
11. Prayer is the medium of miracles.
12. Miracles are thoughts.
14. Miracles bear witness to truth.
15. Each day should be devoted to miracles.
17. Miracles transcend body.

20. Miracles **awaken awareness** that spirit, not body, is the altar of truth.
23. Miracles rearrange perception and place all in true perspective.
28. Miracles are a way of releasing fear.
34. Miracles restore mind to its fullness.
36. Miracles are examples of right thinking.
43. Miracles arise from a miraculous state of mind.
49. The miracle makes no distinction among degrees of misperception.
50. The miracle compares what you have made with creation, **accepting** what is in accord with it as true, and rejecting what is out of accord as false.

Chapter 1 - The Meaning of Miracles

§2 - Revelation, Time and Miracles

Revelation induces complete suspension of doubt and fear. It reflects the original communication between God and creation. Miracles are interpersonal, and result in true closeness to others. Miracles unite you directly with your brother. You are free to believe what you choose, and what you do attests to what you believe. Revelation is intensely personal and cannot be meaningfully translated. Revelation induces only experience. Miracles induce action. Awe should be reserved for revelation, to which it is correctly applicable. You are a perfect creation, and should experience awe only in the Presence of the Creator of perfection. An elder brother is entitled to respect for his greater experience, and obedience for his greater wisdom. There is nothing about me that you cannot attain. "No man cometh unto the Father but by me" does not mean that I am in any way separate or different from you except in time, and time does not really exist. Spirit mediates higher to lower communication. The miracle minimizes the need for time. The miracle entails a sudden shift from horizontal to vertical perception. This introduces an interval from which the giver and receiver both emerge farther along in time than they would otherwise have been. The miracle substitutes for learning that might have taken

thousands of years. It does so by the underlying **recognition** of perfect equality of giver and receiver on which the miracle rests. The miracle shortens time by collapsing it, eliminating certain intervals within it. It does this, however, within the larger temporal sequence.

Chapter 1 - The Meaning of Miracles

§3. Atonement and Miracles

When you offer a miracle to any brothers, you do it to yourself. The Atonement is a canceling out of all errors that you could not otherwise correct. Ability is potential, achievement is expression and Atonement is the purpose. Heaven and earth shall pass away means that they will not continue to exist as separate states. The forgiven are the means of Atonement. Being filled with Spirit, they forgive in return. Error cannot threaten truth. You are free to establish your kingdom where you see fit, but the right choice is inevitable if you **remember** this:

Spirit is in a state of grace forever.

Your reality is only spirit.

Therefore you are in a state of grace forever.

You respond to what you perceive, and as you perceive so you behave. Miracles arise from a mind that is ready for them. The impersonal nature of miracles is because the Atonement is one. Miracles are selective only in the sense that they are directed to those who can use them. This makes it inevitable that they will extend to others. A strong chain of Atonement is welded. This selectivity takes no account of the magnitude of the miracle itself. The concept of size exists on a plane that is itself unreal. The miracle would not be useful if it were bound by laws that govern the error it aims to correct.

Chapter 1 - The Meaning of Miracles

§4. The Escape from Darkness

Escape from darkness involves **two stages**: First, the **recognition** that darkness cannot hide. This usually entails fear. Second, the **recognition** that there is nothing you want to hide even if you could. This brings escape from fear. When you have become willing to hide nothing, you will not only be willing to

enter into communion but will also understand peace and joy. Holiness can never be really hidden in darkness, but you can deceive yourself about it. The miracle sets reality where it belongs. **Reality puts you in communion with yourself.** Your mind can be possessed by illusions, but spirit is eternally free. If a mind perceives without love, it perceives an empty shell and is unaware of the spirit within. Mind that serves spirit is invulnerable. Darkness is lack of light as sin is lack of love. It has no unique properties of its own. It is an example of the scarcity belief, from which only error can proceed. Truth is always abundant. Those who perceive and acknowledge they have everything have no needs of any kind. The purpose of the Atonement is to restore everything to you, to restore it to your **awareness**. You were given everything when you were created, just as everyone was. The emptiness engendered by fear must be replaced by forgiveness. The law itself, if properly understood, offers only protection. It is those who have not yet changed their minds who brought the hell-fire concept into it. Your witnessing demonstrates your belief, and thus strengthens it. Those who witness are expressing that they have abandoned the belief in deprivation in favor of abundance.

Chapter 1 - The Meaning of Miracles

§5. Wholeness and Spirit

The miracle is like the body in that both are learning aids for facilitating a state in which they become unnecessary. When spirit's state of direct communication is reached, neither body nor the miracle serves any purpose. The basic decision of the miracle-minded is not to wait on time. Equality does not imply equality now. When everyone **recognizes** he has everything, individual contributions will no longer be necessary. When the Atonement has been completed, all talents will be shared by all. The specialness does not stem from exclusion but from inclusion. All my brothers are special. If they believe they are deprived of anything, their perception becomes distorted. Creation is whole, and the mark of wholeness is holiness. Whatever is true is eternal, and cannot change or be changed. Spirit is therefore unalterable because it is already perfect, but mind can elect what it chooses to serve. The only limit put on its

choice is that it cannot serve two masters. If it elects to do so, mind becomes the medium by which spirit creates along the line of its own creation. If it does not freely elect to do so, it retains its creative potential but places itself under tyrannous rather than authoritative control. As a result it imprisons, because such are the dictates of tyrants. To change your mind means to place it at the disposal of true authority. The illusion that shallow roots can be deepened, and made to hold, is one of the distortions on which the reverse of the Golden Rule rests. As false underpinnings are given up, the equilibrium is temporarily experienced as unstable.

Chapter 1 - The Meaning of Miracles

§6. The Illusion of Needs

You who want peace can find it only by complete forgiveness. No learning is acquired by anyone unless he wants to learn it. While lack does not exist in creation, it is apparent in what you made. Needs arise when you deprive yourself. You act according to the order of needs you establish. This depends on your perception of what you are. A sense of separation is the only lack you need correct. The idea of order of needs arose because, having made this error, you had already fragmented yourself into levels with different needs. As you integrate you become one, and your needs become one accordingly. The idea of order of need, which follows from the error that one can be separated, requires correction at its own level before the error of perceiving levels at all can be corrected. Ultimately, space is as meaningless as time. Both are merely beliefs. The real purpose of this world is to use it to correct unbelief. You can never control the effects of fear yourself, because you made fear, and you believe in what you made. Belief produces **acceptance** of existence. In sorting the false from the true, the miracle proceeds along these lines:

Perfect love casts out fear.

If fear exists there is not perfect love.

But only perfect love exists.

If there is fear, It produces a state that does not exist. Believe this and you will be free.

Chapter 1 - The Meaning of Miracles

§7. Distortions of Miracle Impulses

Your distorted perceptions produce a cover over miracle impulses, making it hard for them to reach your own **awareness**. The confusion of miracle with physical impulses is a major perceptual distortion. Physical impulses are misdirected miracle impulses. Denial of self results in illusions, while correction of the error brings release. Love, for a little while, must still be expressed thru one body to another, because vision is still dim. You can use your body best to help enlarge your perception so you can achieve real vision, of which the physical eye is incapable. Learning to do this is the body's only true usefulness. **Actions that stem from distortions are the reactions of those who know not what they do.** Twist reality in any way and you perceive destructively. Fantasies are a means of making false associations and attempting pleasure from them. Although you can perceive false associations, you can never make them real except to yourself. This is a course in mind training. All learning involves **attention** and study at some level. The later parts of the course rest heavily on these early sections which require careful study. A solid foundation is necessary because of the confusion between fear and awe. I have stressed that awe is not an appropriate reaction to me because of our inherent equality. Some of the later steps in this course, however, involve a more direct approach. It is unwise to start on these steps without careful preparation, or awe will be confused with fear, and the experience will be traumatic. The means are being carefully explained to you.

Chapter 2 - The Separation and the Atonement

§1 The Origins of Separation

You have been fully created and also have been created perfect. There is no emptiness in you. The use of extension occurs when you believe some emptiness or lack exists. This involves the following:

You believe that what is created can be changed.

You believe that what is perfect can be lacking.

You believe that you can distort creation.

You believe that you can create yourself.

These related distortions represent a picture of what actually occurred in the detour into fear. Its real source is internal. This requires endowment with free will, because all loving creation is freely given in one continuous line, in which all aspects are of the same order. The escape is brought about by **acceptance** of the Atonement, which enables you to **realize** your errors never really occurred. This release does not depend on illusions. The knowledge that illuminates shows you that you are free. Whatever lies you may believe are of no concern to the miracle, which can heal any of them with equal ease. Its sole concern is to distinguish between truth on the one hand, and error on the other. In reality you are perfectly unaffected by all expressions of lack of love. These can be from yourself and others, from yourself to others, or from others to you. Peace is an attribute in you.

Chapter 2 - The Separation and the Atonement

§2 The Atonement as Defense

When you are afraid of anything, you are acknowledging its power to hurt you. You believe in what you value. If you are afraid you will value wrongly, and by endowing all thoughts with equal power will destroy peace. The proper use of denial is not to hide anything, but to correct error. True denial is a powerful protective device. You should deny any belief that error can hurt you. Your right mind depends on it. You save time if you do not protract this step. Correct **focus** will shorten it immeasurably. The Atonement is the only defense that cannot be used

destructively because it is not a device you made. It can only heal. The Atonement was built into the space-time belief to set a limit on the need for the belief itself, and ultimately to make learning complete. Learning itself, like the classrooms in which it occurs, is temporary. The ability to learn has no value when change is no longer necessary. You can learn to improve perceptions, and can become a better and better learner. Only while there is a belief in differences is learning meaningful. Evolution is a process in which you seem to proceed from one degree to the next. **You correct your previous missteps by stepping forward.** As long as there is need for Atonement, there is need for time. Until the Atonement is complete, its various phases will proceed in time, but the whole Atonement stands at time's end. Atonement is a total commitment. You may still think this is associated with loss, a mistake all make in one way or another. It is hard to believe a defense that cannot attack is the best defense. A two-way defense is inherently weak precisely because it has two edges, and can be turned against you.

Chapter 2 - The Separation and the Atonement

§3 The Altar of God

Atonement can only be **accepted** within you by releasing the inner light. The many body fantasies in which minds engage arise from the distorted belief that body can be used for attaining atonement. Perceiving body as a temple is only the first step in correcting this distortion, because it alters only part of it. The next step is to **realize** that a temple is not a structure at all. Its true holiness lies at the inner altar around which the structure is built. The real beauty of the temple cannot be seen with the physical eye. For perfect effectiveness Atonement belongs at the center of the inner altar, where it undoes the separation and restores the wholeness of mind. The **acceptance** of the Atonement by everyone is only a matter of time. Tolerance for pain may be high, but it is not without limit. Eventually everyone begins to **recognize**, however dimly, that there must be a better way. As this **recognition** becomes more firmly established, it becomes a turning point. Spiritual vision looks within and **recognizes** that the altar has been defiled and

needs to be repaired. Because of the strength of its vision, it brings mind into its service. This re-establishes the power of mind and makes it increasingly unable to tolerate delay, realizing it only adds unnecessary pain. The Atonement is the only gift that is worthy of being offered at the altar of God, because of the value of the altar itself. It was created perfect and is entirely worthy of receiving perfection. Whenever you are afraid you are deceived, and your mind cannot serve Spirit.

Chapter 2 - The Separation and the Atonement

§4 Healing as Release from Fear

Our emphasis is now on healing. To speak of a miracle of healing is to combine two orders of reality inappropriately. Healing is not a miracle. The Atonement, the final miracle, is a remedy and any healing is a result. All healing is release from fear. You do not understand healing because of your fear. Sickness or not-right-mindedness is the result of level confusion. Only mind is capable of error. Body can act wrongly only when it is responding to mis-thought. Body cannot create, and the belief that it can, a fundamental error, produces all physical symptoms. When it is understood that mind, the only level of creation, cannot create beyond itself, neither type of confusion need occur. Only mind can create because spirit has already been created, and body is a learning device for mind. The worst a faulty use of a learning device can do is to fail to facilitate learning. Body is merely part of your experience in the physical world. Its abilities can be and frequently are over evaluated. All material means that you accept as remedies for bodily ills are statements of magic principles. This is a step in believing that a body makes its own illness. It is a second misstep to try to heal it thru non-creative agents. It does not follow, however, that the use of such agents for correction is evil. Sometimes the illness has a sufficiently strong hold over mind to render a person temporarily inaccessible to the Atonement. The value of the Atonement does not lie in the manner in which it is expressed. If it is used truly, it will inevitably be expressed in whatever way is most helpful to the receiver. The whole aim of the miracle is to raise the level of communication, not to lower it by increasing fear.

Chapter 2 - The Separation and the Atonement

§5 The Function Of The Miracle Worker

Before miracle workers are ready to take their function in this world, it is essential that they fully understand the fear of release. That is because of the underlying fear that mind can hurt itself. None of these errors is meaningful, because the miscreations of mind do not really exist. This **recognition** is a far better protective device than any form of level confusion, because it introduces correction at the level of the error. Body does not exist except as a learning device for mind. This learning device is not subject to errors of its own, because it cannot create. It is obvious, then, that inducing mind to give up its miscreations is the only application of creative ability that is truly meaningful. The fact that you are afraid makes your mind vulnerable to miscreation. The right-minded neither exalt nor depreciate the mind of the miracle worker or the miracle receiver. However, the miracle need not await the right-mindedness of the receiver. Its purpose is to restore him to right mind. It is essential for a miracle worker be in right mind, even briefly, or he will be unable to re-establish right-mindedness in someone else. A healer who relies on his own readiness endangers his understanding. You are perfectly safe as long as you are completely unconcerned about your readiness, but have a consistent trust in Spirit. If your miracle inclinations are not functioning properly, it is always because fear has intruded on your right-mindedness and has turned it upside down. The sole responsibility of the miracle worker is to **accept** the Atonement for himself. This means you **recognize** that mind is the only creative level. Once you **accept** this, your mind can heal. By denying your mind any destructive potential and reinstating its purely constructive powers, you place yourself in a position to undo the level confusion of others. It is emphasized again that the body does not learn or create. As a learning device it follows the learner, but if it is falsely endowed with self-initiative, it becomes a serious obstruction to the very learning it should facilitate. Only mind is capable of illumination. Spirit is already illuminated and body in itself is too dense. Mind, however, can bring illumination to the body by **recognizing** it is not the learner, and is un-amenable to learning. Body is, however, easily

brought into alignment with a mind that has learned to look beyond it toward the light. Corrective learning always begins with **awakening** of spirit, and turning away from belief in physical sight. There is no doubt that this may produce discomfort, yet discomfort is not the final outcome. Discomfort only brings the need for correction into **awareness**. Real vision is obscured because you cannot endure to see your own defiled altar. Like all aspects of beliefs in space and time, it is temporary. Most of the loftier concepts of which you are capable now are time-dependent. Charity is really a weaker reflection of a much more powerful love-encompassment that is far beyond any form of charity you can conceive of as yet. Charity is essential to right-mindedness in the limited sense in which it can now be attained. It must be understood that whenever you offer a miracle to another, you are shortening the suffering of both of you. This corrects retroactively as well as progressively.

Chapter 2 - The Separation and the Atonement

§6 Special Principles Of Miracle Workers

1. The miracle abolishes the need for lower-order concerns. When you perform a miracle, time and space adjust to it.
2. A clear distinction between what is created and what is made is essential.
4. The miracle is a denial of error and an affirmation of truth. What has no real effect has no existence.
5. The level-adjustment power of the miracle induces the right perception for healing. Forgiveness is an empty gesture unless it entails correction.
6. Forgiveness is only correction. The statement "Bless them for they know not what they do" in no way evaluates what they do.
7. 'Be of one mind' is the statement for revelation-readiness. In time we exist for and with each other.
8. You can do much on behalf of your own healing and that of others if, in a situation calling for help, you think of it this way:

I am here only to be truly helpful.

I do not have to worry about what to say or what to do.

I will be healed as I let Him teach me to heal.

Chapter 2 - The Separation and the Atonement

§7 Fear And Conflict

Being afraid seems to be involuntary; something beyond your own control. Yet only constructive acts should be involuntary. My control can take over everything that does not matter, while my guidance can direct everything that does. Fear cannot be controlled by me, but it can be self-controlled. Fear prevents me from giving you my control. You would not excuse insane behavior by saying you could not help it. Why should you condone insane thinking? The truth is that you are responsible for what you think, because it is only at this level that you can exercise choice. What you do comes from what you think. You cannot separate yourself from the truth by giving autonomy to behavior. When you are afraid, it is a sure sign that you have allowed your mind to mis-create. When you are fearful, you have chosen wrongly. You must change your mind, not your behavior. You do not need guidance except at mind level. Correction belongs only at the level where change is possible. **You are consistently tolerant of mind wandering**, and are passively condoning your mind's mis-creations. The correction is always the same. Before you choose anything, ask me if your choice is in accord with mine. If you are sure that it is, there will be no fear. Fear is a sign of strain, rising when what you want conflicts with what you do. This situation arises in two ways: **First**, you choose conflicting things, simultaneously or successively. This produces conflicted behavior, which is intolerable to you because the part of mind that wants to do something else is outraged. **Second**, you behave as you think you should, but without wanting to do so. This produces consistent behavior, but entails strain. In both cases, mind and behavior are out of accord, resulting in a situation in which you are doing what you do not want to do. When there is fear, it is because you have not made up your mind. Your mind is therefore split, and your behavior inevitably becomes erratic. Correcting at the behavioral level can shift the error from the first to the second type, but will not obliterate the fear. It is possible to reach a state in which you bring your mind under my guidance without conscious effort, but Spirit cannot ask more than you are willing to do. **The first corrective step in undoing error is to know that conflict**

is an expression of fear. Say to yourself that you must somehow have chosen not to love, or the fear could not have arisen. Then the whole process of correction becomes nothing more than a series of pragmatic steps. These steps may be summarized in this way:

Know first that this is fear.

Fear arises from lack of love.

The only remedy for lack of love is perfect love.

As long as you **recognize** only the need for the remedy, you will remain fearful. As soon as you **accept** the remedy, you have abolished the fear. This is how true healing occurs. Few appreciate the real power of mind, and no one remains aware of it all the time. Mind is very powerful, and never loses its creative force. It is hard to **recognize** that thought and belief combine into a power surge that can move mountains. You believe your thoughts cannot exert influence because you are afraid of them.

Chapter 2 - The Separation and the Atonement

§8 Cause And Effect

You may still complain about fear, but persist in making yourself fearful. **It is helpful to remind you that you do not guard your thoughts carefully enough.** You may feel that at this point it would take a miracle to enable you to do this, which is true. You are not used to miracle-minded thinking, but you can be trained to think that way. Miracle working entails a full realization of the power of thought in order to avoid miscreation. The miracle worker must have genuine respect for true cause and effect. Both miracles and fear come from thoughts. By choosing the miracle you have rejected fear. You have been fearful of everyone and everything. The fearful must mis-create, because they misperceive creation. This entails a set of cause and effect relationships totally different from those you introduce into miscreation. The true resolution rests entirely on mastery thru love. Fear is really nothing and love is everything. What you believe is true for you. The initial corrective procedure is to **recognize** temporarily that there is a problem, but only as an indication that immediate correction is needed. This establishes a state of mind in which the Atonement can be **accepted**. Time

is essentially a device by which all compromise in this respect can be given up. It only seems to be abolished by degrees, because time itself involves intervals that do not exist. Miscreation made this necessary as a corrective device. The correction of this error is Atonement. Readiness is only the prerequisite for accomplishment.

Chapter 2 - The Separation and the Atonement

§9 The Meaning Of The Last Judgment

One of the ways in which you can correct the magic-miracle confusion is to **remember** that you did not create yourself. You are apt to forget this when you become ego centered. Since creative ability rests in mind, everything you create is necessarily a matter of will. Whatever you alone make is real in your sight. This basic distinction leads directly into the real meaning of the Last Judgment. The Last Judgment is one of the most threatening ideas in your thinking. Judgment is not an attribute of God. The Last Judgment is thought of as taken by God. It is a final healing, not a punishment. Punishment is a concept opposed to right-mindedness. The first step to freedom involves a sorting of the false from the true. Everyone will look upon his own creations and choose to preserve only what is good. At this point, mind can begin to look with love on its own creations because of their worthiness. At the same time mind will inevitably disown its mis-creations which, without belief, will no longer exist. If the meaning of the Last Judgment is objectively examined, it is quite apparent that it is really the doorway to life. No one who lives in fear is really alive. The purpose of time is solely to give you time to achieve this judgment. It is your own perfect judgment of your own perfect creations. When everything you retain is lovable, there is no reason for fear to remain with you. This is your part in the Atonement.

Chapter 3 - The Innocent Perception

§ 1. Atonement Without Sacrifice

Crucifixion did not establish the Atonement; resurrection did. If crucifixion is seen from an upside-down point of view, it appears as if God permitted and even encouraged one of His Sons to suffer because he was good. Such anti-religious concepts enter into many religions. It is so essential that all such thinking be dispelled that we must be sure that nothing of this kind remains in your mind. The benign lesson Atonement teaches is lost if it is tainted with this kind of distortion in any form. God does not believe in retribution. He does not hold your evil deeds against you. Sacrificing in any way is a violation of my injunction that you should be merciful even as your Father in Heaven is merciful. It has been hard for many Christians to **realize** that this applies to themselves. Good teachers never terrorize their students. To terrorize is to attack, and this results in rejection of what the teacher offers. The lion and the lamb lying down together symbolize that strength and innocence are not in conflict, but naturally live in peace. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God is another way of saying the same thing. A pure mind knows the truth and this is its strength. It does not confuse destruction with innocence because it associates innocence with strength, not with weakness. Innocence is incapable of sacrificing anything, because the innocent mind has everything and strives only to protect its wholeness. It cannot project. It can only honor other minds, because honor is the natural greeting of the truly loved to others who are like them. Innocence is the true state of mind. In this state your mind knows God.

Chapter 3 - The Innocent Perception

§2. Miracles As True Perception

The concepts in this course are not matters of degree. Certain fundamental concepts cannot be understood in terms of opposites. It is impossible to conceive of light and darkness or everything and nothing as joint possibilities. It is essential that you **realize** your thinking will be erratic until a firm commitment to one or the other is made. No one is able to deny truth totally,

even if he thinks he can. Innocence is not a partial attribute. It is not real until it is total. The partly innocent are apt to be quite foolish at times. **It is not until innocence becomes a viewpoint with absolute universal application that it becomes wisdom.** Innocent or true perception means that you never misperceive. When you lack confidence in what someone will do, you are attesting to your belief that he is not in his right mind. This is hardly a miracle-based frame of reference. If nothing but truth exists, right-minded seeing cannot see anything but perfection. You are afraid of God's will because you have used your own mind to mis-create. Mind can mis-create only when it believes it is not free. It is therefore limited. To be one is to be of one mind or will. This single purpose creates perfect integration and establishes peace. Yet this vision can be perceived only by the truly innocent. Their hearts are pure, so the innocent defend true perception instead of defending themselves against it. Understanding the lesson of the Atonement, they are without the wish to attack, and therefore they see truly. The way to correct distortions is to withdraw your faith in them and invest it in what is true.

Chapter 3 - The Innocent Perception

§3. Perception Versus Knowledge

We have been emphasizing perception, and have said very little about knowledge as yet. This is because perception must be straightened out before you can know anything. To know is to be certain, and certainty is strength. Perception is temporary. As an attribute of the belief in space and time, it is subject either to fear or to love. Misperceptions produce fear and true perceptions foster love, but neither brings certainty because all perception varies. That is why it is not knowledge. True perception is the basis for knowledge, but knowing is the affirmation of truth and beyond all perceptions. All your difficulties stem from the fact that you do not **recognize** yourself or your brother. You can see in many different ways because perception involves interpretation, and thus it is not whole or consistent. The miracle, being a way of perceiving, is not knowledge. **Questioning illusions is the first step in undoing them.** The miracle corrects them. True vision is the perception of

spiritual sight, but it is still a correction rather than a fact. Spiritual sight is symbolic, and therefore not a device for knowing. It is a means of right perception, which brings it into the proper domain of the miracle. Knowledge provides strength for creative thinking, but not for right doing. Perception, miracles and doing are closely related. Knowledge is the result of revelation and induces only thought. Even in its most spiritual form perception involves the body. Knowledge preceded perception and time, and ultimately replaces them. Perception can be stabilized, but knowledge is stable. If you attack error in another, you hurt yourself. You cannot know your brother when you attack him. Perceive him correctly so that you can know him.

Chapter 3 - The Innocent Perception

§4. Error And Ego

The abilities you possess are only shadows of your real strength. Your present functions are divided and open to doubt. You are incapable of knowledge because you still perceive lovelessly. Consciousness is correctly identified as the domain of ego. Ego is a wrong-minded attempt to perceive yourself as you wish to be, rather than as you are. You can know yourself only as you are. Ego is the questioning aspect of self, which was made rather than created. It is capable of asking questions but not of perceiving meaningful answers. A divided mind must be confused. It has to be in conflict. This is the essence of a fear-prone condition, in which attack is always possible. You can be right-minded or wrong-minded, and even this is subject to degrees, demonstrating that knowledge is not involved. Right-mindedness is the correction for wrong-mindedness, and applies to the state of mind that induces accurate perception. Perception brings mind into areas of uncertainty. Mind returns to its proper function when it wills to know. This places it in the service of spirit. It can-not entirely separate itself from spirit, because it is from spirit that it derives its power. Mind belongs to spirit which is therefore eternal. Perception involves a translation. The interpretative function permits you to interpret body as yourself to escape from conflict. Spirit is entirely inaccessible to body. This cannot be an active process of correction because

knowledge does nothing. Only your misperceptions stand in your way. Without them your choice is certain. All are called but few choose to listen. The chosen ones are merely those who choose sooner.

Chapter 3 - The Innocent Perception

§5. Beyond Perception

The words 'create' and 'make' have become confused. When you make something, you do so out of a sense of lack. Ego has invented many systems for this purpose. None of them are creative. Inventiveness is wasted effort even in its most ingenious form. Knowing does not lead to doing. The confusion between your real creation and what you made of yourself is so profound that it has become impossible for you to know anything. Knowledge is stable, and it is evident that you are not. The question you ask yourself cannot be directed to yourself at all. You ask what it is you are. This implies that the answer is one you know, but is also one that is up to you to supply. You cannot perceive yourself correctly. You have no image to be perceived. The word image is perception-related, and not a part of knowledge. Images are symbolic and stand for something else. Knowing is not open to interpretation. You may try to interpret meaning, but this is always open to error because it refers to the perception of meaning. Your mind may have become ingenious, but as always happens when method and content are separated, it is utilized in a futile attempt to escape from an inescapable impasse. Ingenuity is totally divorced from knowledge, because knowledge does not require ingenuity. Ingenious thinking is not the truth that shall set you free, but you are free of the need to engage in it when you are willing to let it go. Prayer is a way of asking for something. It is the medium of miracles. But the only meaningful prayer is for forgiveness, as those who have been forgiven have everything. Once forgiveness is **accepted**, prayer becomes meaningless. The prayer for forgiveness is a request that you be able to **recognize** what you already have. Image can be understood as thought, and likeness as of a like quality. Perception is impossible without a belief in more and less. At every level it involves selectivity. Perception is a continual process of

accepting and rejecting, organizing and reorganizing, shifting and changing. Evaluation is an essential part of perception, because judgments are necessary to select. What happens to perceptions if there are no judgments? Perception becomes impossible. Truth can only be known. All of it is equally true, and knowing any part of it is to know all of it. Only perception involves partial **awareness**. Knowledge transcends laws of perception. You who are really one with knowledge need but know yourself and your knowledge is complete. Forgiveness is the healing of the perception of separation. Correct perception of a brother is necessary, because minds have chosen to see as separate. The fact that each one has this power completely is a condition entirely alien to the world's thinking. The world believes that if anyone has everything, there is nothing left. Since perception rests on lack, those who perceive have not totally **accepted** Atonement and given themselves to truth. Perception is based on a separate state, so anyone who perceives at all needs healing. Communion, not prayer, is the natural state of those who know. Your worth is beyond perception because it is beyond doubt. Do not perceive yourself in a different light. Know yourself in the One Light where the miracle that is you is perfectly clear.

Chapter 3 - The Innocent Perception

§6. Judgment & The Authority Problem

After the Last Judgment there will be no more judgment. Beyond perception there is no judgment. When the Bible says 'Judge not that ye be not judged,' it means that if you judge the reality of others you judge your own. The choice to judge rather than know is the cause of loss of peace. Judgment always involves rejection. It never emphasizes the positive. What is judged and found wanting remains in your mind. One of the illusions from which you suffer is the belief that what you judged against has no effect. In the end it does not matter whether your judgment is right or wrong. Either way you are placing your belief in the unreal. You have no idea of the tremendous peace that comes from meeting yourself without judgment. Your brothers meaning is lost to you because you are judging them. In the presence of knowledge all judgment is suspended, and this process enables

recognition to replace perception. You fear everything you perceive. Nothing that you have refused to accept can be brought into **awareness**. You have made it seem dangerous to you. The strain of constant judgment is intolerable. It is curious that an ability so debilitating would be so deeply cherished. The authority problem is the root of all evil. The issue of authority is really a question of authorship. It is possible to look on reality without judgment and know that it is there. **The problem everyone must decide is the fundamental question of authorship.** There is no one who does not feel that he is imprisoned in some way. Judgment always imprisons; it separates segments of reality.

Chapter 3 - The Innocent Perception

\$7. Creating Versus The Self-Image

Every system of thought begins with either a making or a creating. Their difference lies in what rests on them. Both are cornerstones for systems of belief by which one lives. It is a mistake to believe that a thought system based on lies is weak. It is essential to **realize** this, because otherwise you will be unable to escape from the prison you made. You cannot resolve the authority problem by depreciating the power of your mind. You must **realize** that you cannot weaken it. The devil deceives by lies. Yet he attracts men rather than repels them, and they are willing to sell him their souls in return for gifts of no worth. This makes no sense. The separation is a system of thought real enough in time, though not in eternity. All beliefs are real to the believer. The fruit of only one tree was forbidden in the symbolic garden. God could **not** have forbidden it or it could **not** have been eaten. Knowledge cannot deceive, but perception can. You can perceive yourself as self-creating, but you cannot do more than believe it. You cannot make it true. You still believe you are an image of your own making. That is why you cannot create and are filled with fear about what you make. Mind can make the belief in separation very real and very fearful. You who fear salvation are choosing death. Light and darkness, knowledge and perception, are not reconcilable.

Chapter 4 - The Illusions Of The Ego

§1. Introduction

The Bible says that you should go with a brother twice as far as he asks. It certainly does not suggest that you set him back on his journey. Devotion to a brother cannot set you back either. It can lead only to mutual progress. The result of genuine devotion is inspiration, a word which properly understood is the opposite of fatigue. To be fatigued is to be dis-spirited, but to be inspired is to be in the spirit. **To be egocentric is to be dis-spirited, but to be self-centered in the right sense is to be inspired or in spirit.** The truly inspired cannot abide in darkness. You speak from spirit or from ego, as you choose. If you speak from ego you are disclaiming knowledge instead of affirming it. Do not embark on useless journeys, because they are indeed in vain. Ego may desire them, but spirit cannot embark on them because it is unwilling to depart from its foundation. The journey to the cross should be the last useless journey. If you can **accept** it as your own last useless journey, you are also free to join resurrection. Until you do your life is wasted. It re-enacts the separation, the loss of power, the futile attempts of ego at reparation, and finally the crucifixion of body, or death. Such repetitions are endless until they are voluntarily given up. Do not make the pathetic error of clinging to the cross. The only message of the crucifixion is that you can overcome the cross. Until then you are free to crucify yourself as often as you choose. You have another journey to undertake, and if you read these lessons carefully they will help you to undertake it.

Chapter 4 - The Illusions Of The Ego

§2. Right Teaching & Right Learning

A good teacher clarifies ideas and strengthens them. A teacher must believe in the ideas, and must believe in the students. Learning means change. Change is fearful to the separated. You believe that if you allow no change to enter into your ego you will find peace. This confusion is possible only if you maintain that the same thought system can stand on two foundations. Spirit can neither strengthen ego nor reduce conflict within it. They are not and can never be in communication. Learning is

perceived as frightening because it leads to relinquishment of ego to the light of spirit. Teaching and learning are your greatest strengths. You dream of a separate ego and believe in a world that rests on it. It is natural for ego to try to protect itself, but it is not natural for you to want to obey its laws. Ego tries to exploit all situations into forms of praise for itself. In your right mind you **realize** it is not real. The only solution is not to try to change reality, but **accept** it as it is. Reality stands unchanged beyond the reach of ego but within easy reach of spirit. You are the author of fear. When you **awaken** you will not be able to understand this, because it is literally incredible. Your investment is great because fear is a witness to separation. Do not listen to it and do not preserve it. Do not present an unworthy picture of yourself to others, and do not accept such a picture of them. Of your spirit you can do everything. Spirit is beyond humility, because it **recognizes** its radiance and gladly sheds its light. The meek inherit the earth as this gives them true perception.

Chapter 4 - The Illusions Of The Ego

§3. Ego And False Autonomy

Ask how mind could have made ego. It is the best question you ask. Everyone makes ego for self, which is subject to instability. He also makes ego for everyone else, which is equally variable. Interaction alters both. It is important to **realize** this alteration can occur as readily when an action takes place in the mind as when it involves physical action. Mind need not work that way, even though it does now. You react to your ego with protection and charity. The question is not how you respond to ego, but what you believe you are. Belief that there is another way of perceiving is the loftiest idea of which ego thinking is capable. It contains a hint of **recognition** that ego is not the self. Be **patient** and **remember** the outcome is certain. Only those who have a real sense of abundance can be truly charitable. To ego, giving anything implies that you will have to do without it. Giving to get is an law of ego, which always evaluates in relation to other egos. Self-esteem is always vulnerable to stress, which refers to any perceived threat to ego. Ego lives by comparisons. This is such a fearful state that it can only turn to other egos and try to unite in a feeble attempt at identification, or attack

them in an equally feeble show of strength. Ego is mind's belief that it is on its own. Spirit is unaware of ego. Salvation is nothing more than right-mindedness. Right-mindedness leads to the next step automatically. Ego cannot survive without judgment. You may ask how this is possible as long as you appear to be living in this world. That is a reasonable question. You must be careful, however, that you really understand it. **Who is the you who are living in this world?**

Chapter 4 - The Illusions Of The Ego

§4. Love Without Conflict

Understand what the 'Kingdom of Heaven is within you' really means. This is not understandable to ego. The word 'within' is unnecessary. **The Kingdom of Heaven is you.** This is the whole message which in its totality transcends the sum of its parts. Your spirit has not ceased because of ego's illusions. Your ego and your spirit will never be co-creators. The kingdom is perfectly united and perfectly protected, and ego will not prevail. Ego arose from the separation, and its continued existence depends on your continuing belief in the separation. Ego must offer you some reward for maintaining this belief. It tells you this life is your existence because it is its own. Against this sense of temporary existence spirit offers you the knowledge of permanence and unshakable being. You do not love what you made; what you made does not love you. You project to ego the decision to separate, and this conflicts with the love you feel for ego because you made it. There is a kind of experience so different from anything ego can offer that you will never want to cover or hide it again. Your belief in darkness and hiding is why light cannot enter. No force except your will is strong enough to guide you. You retain thousands of scraps of fear. Light cannot penetrate thru the walls you make to block it. **Watch your mind for the scraps of fear.** Watch carefully and see what it is you are really asking for. If you will really try to do this, you have taken the first step toward preparing your mind. In your mind, though denied by ego, is the declaration of your release. Ego is desperate because it opposes invincible odds. Consider how much **vigilance** you exert to protect your ego, and how little to protect your mind.

Chapter 4 - The Illusions Of The Ego

§5. This Need Not Be

You cannot hear the voice because you do not choose to listen. You listen to the voice of ego, demonstrated by your attitudes and behavior. This is what you fight to keep. Your mind is filled with schemes to save the face of ego, and you do not seek the face of Christ. When your mood tells you that you have chosen wrongly, when you are not joyous, know **this need not be**. You have thought wrong about a brother, and are perceiving images ego makes. When you are sad, know **this need not be**. Depression comes from a sense of being deprived. You are deprived of nothing except by your own decisions. When you are anxious, **realize** anxiety comes from ego, and **this need not be**. You can be as **vigilant** against ego's dictates as for them. When you feel guilty, **remember** that ego has violated the law, but you have not. Until you change your mind about those whom your ego has hurt, Atonement cannot release you. **Watch your mind** for temptations of ego, and do not be deceived. When you have given up this voluntary dis-spiriting, you will see your mind can **focus** and heal. You are not sufficiently **vigilant** to disengage yourself. **This need not be**. The problem is the belief that you are not worth consistent effort. **Watch mind carefully** for any beliefs that hinder accomplishment, and step away from them. Without your protection ego cannot exist. The second coming means nothing more than healing of mind. You are too confused to **recognize** your own hope. You and your brother will yet come together and sanity will be restored.

Chapter 4 - The Illusions Of The Ego

§6. The Ego-Body Illusion

All things work together for good. There are no exceptions except in ego's judgment. Ego exerts maximal **vigilance** about what it permits into **awareness**. Ego is thrown off balance because it keeps its primary motivation from your **awareness**. A major source of ego's state is its lack of discrimination between body and thought. Ego distorts them or refuses to accept them. It cannot make them cease to be. It therefore tries to conceal not only body impulses, but also thoughts, because both are threatening to it. Fear of the body, which ego identifies

with so closely, makes no sense. Body is ego's home by its own election. It is the only identification with which ego feels safe. This is the belief that ego sponsors. Yet ego hates the body, as it cannot accept it as good enough. Here is where mind becomes actually dazed. Being told by ego that it is really part of body and that body is its protector, mind is also told that body cannot protect it. Therefore, mind asks, 'Where can I go for protection?' Ego obliterates the question from **awareness**. 'Seek and ye shall find' does not mean that you should seek blindly. Meaningful seeking is consciously undertaken and consciously directed. The goal must be formulated clearly and kept in mind. Ego compromises with all issues touching on the real question. Ego's busyness with nonessentials is for that purpose. Preoccupations with problems set up to be incapable of solution are favorite ego devices for impeding learning. What for? This is the question that you must ask. When you make a decision of purpose, you have made a decision about your future; a decision that will remain in effect unless you change your mind.

Chapter 4 - The Illusions Of The Ego

§7. The Rewards Of God

Ego does not recognize the real source of threat, and if you associate yourself with ego, you do not understand the situation. Only allegiance gives ego any power. Ego is nothing more than a part of your belief about yourself. In learning to escape from illusions, your debt to your brother is something you must never forget. Whenever you act egotistically, you are throwing away the holy perception it would produce. No one who learns that one choice brings peace while another brings chaos needs additional convincing. Learning by rewards is more effective than learning by pain, as pain is ego illusion. You cannot escape ego by controlling it. Ego and spirit do not know each other. **The separated mind cannot maintain the separation except by dissociating.** Ego is a device for maintaining this belief, but it is your decision to use the device. Your mission is very simple. Live to demonstrate that you are not an ego. Your gratitude to your brother is the only gift. Love does not conquer all things, but it does set all things right. Because you are the Kingdom of God I can lead you back to your own creations. You do not

recognize them, but what has been dissociated is there. As you come closer to a brother you approach me, and as you withdraw from him I become distant to you. Salvation is a collaborative venture. It cannot be undertaken successfully by those who disengage themselves, because they are disengaging from me. God will come to you only as you give him to your brothers. Learn first of them and you will be ready to hear God. That is because the function of love is one.

Chapter 4 - The Illusions Of The Ego

§8. Creation And Communication

The content of an ego illusion does not matter, its correction is helpful in a specific context. Part of mind becomes concrete when it splits. The concrete part believes in ego. Ego is the part that believes existence is separation. Ego is against communication, except to establish separateness. It will disrupt communication when it perceives threat. Spirit reacts to everything it knows as true, and does not respond to anything else. It is in direct communication with every aspect of creation. Creation and communication are synonymous. Only beings of a like order can communicate. This communication is universal and not subject to judgment, exception or alteration. Mind can distort its function, but it cannot endow itself with functions it was not given. That is why mind cannot lose the ability to communicate, even though it may refuse to utilize it. Existence and being both rest on communication. Existence is specific in how, what and with whom communication is judged to be worth undertaking. Being is completely without these distinctions. It is a state in which mind is in communication with everything that is real. To whatever extent you permit this state to be curtailed you limit your sense of your reality, which becomes total only by **recognizing** all reality in the glorious context of its real relationship to you. This is your reality. Do not desecrate or recoil from it. It is your home, your temple and your real self. Nothing real can be increased except by sharing. How, what and whom are irrelevant. The Bible states that you should praise God. This hardly means that you should tell him how wonderful he is. He has no ego with which to accept such praise, and no perception with which to judge it.

Chapter 5 - Healing And Wholeness

§1. Introduction

To heal is to make happy. Think how many opportunities you have had to gladden yourself, and how many you have refused. This is the same as telling you that you have refused to heal yourself. The light that belongs to you is the light of joy. Radiance is not associated with sorrow. Joy calls forth an integrated willingness to share it, and promotes the mind's natural impulse to respond as one. Those who attempt to heal without being wholly joyous themselves call forth different kinds of responses at the same time, and thus deprive others of the joy of responding wholeheartedly. To be wholehearted you must be happy. If fear and love cannot coexist, if it is impossible to be wholly fearful and wholly alive, the only possible whole state is that of love. There is no difference between love and joy. The only possible whole state is the wholly joyous. To heal or to make joyous is therefore the same as to integrate and make one. You are being blessed by every beneficent thought of any of your brothers anywhere. You should want to bless them in return, out of gratitude. You need not know them individually, or they you. The light is so strong that it radiates thru out. The healer's prayer is:

Let me know this brother as I know myself.

Chapter 5 - Healing And Wholeness

§2. The Invitation To The Holy Spirit

Healing is thought by which two minds perceive their oneness. Only healed mind can experience revelation with lasting effect, because revelation is an experience of pure joy. If you do not choose to be wholly joyous, your mind cannot have what it does not choose to be. **Remember** that spirit knows no difference between having and being. The higher mind thinks according to laws spirit obeys. To spirit getting is meaningless and giving is all. Having everything, spirit holds everything by giving it, and thus creates. While this kind of thinking is totally alien to having things, even to the lower mind it is comprehensible in connection with ideas. If you share a physical possession, you divide its ownership. If you share an idea, you do not lessen it. All of it is

still yours although all of it has been given away. Further, if the one to whom you give it **accepts** it as his, he reinforces it in your mind and thus increases it. If you can **accept** the concept that the world is one of ideas, the belief in the false association ego makes between giving and losing is gone. Start our process of **reawakening** with just a few simple concepts:

Thoughts increase by being given away.

The more who believe the stronger they become.

Everything is an idea.

How can giving and losing be associated?

Knowledge is always ready to flow everywhere. You can obstruct it, although you can never lose it. Perception is not knowledge, but it can be transferred to knowledge, or cross over into it.

Chapter 5 - Healing And Wholeness

§3. The Voice For God

Healing is not creating; it is reparation. This is the vocation of the mind. The mind had no calling until the separation, because before that it had only being, and would not have understood the Call to right thinking. The principle of Atonement and separation began at the same time. The Call is so strong that ego always dissolves at its sound. It is possible even in this world to hear only that voice and no other. It takes effort and great willingness to learn. You let the belief in darkness enter your mind and you need a new light. God is not in you in a literal sense; you are part of him. Direct communication was broken because you made another voice. **You have chosen to be in a state of opposition.** As a result, there are choices you must make. In the holy state the will is free, so that its creative power is unlimited and choice is meaningless. Freedom to choose is the same power as freedom to create, but its application is different. Choosing depends on a split mind. The voice for God is always quiet, because It speaks of peace. Peace is stronger than war because it heals. War is division, not increase. No one gains from strife. If you listen to the wrong voice you have lost sight of your soul. Both heaven and earth are in you, because the call of both is in your mind. Altars are not things; they are devotions. You have other devotions now. The call you answer is an

evaluation because it is a decision. The decision is very simple. It is made on the basis of which call is worth more to you. This decision is the choice to share, because the decision is the decision to share. It is made by giving, and is the one choice that resembles true creation. You are the light of the world. Rest does not come from sleeping but from waking.

Chapter 5 - Healing And Wholeness

§4. The Guide To Salvation

The way to **recognize** your brother is by **recognizing** the Spirit in him. This relationship must be in his mind because otherwise the separation would not be open to healing. His mind is partly yours. This needs clarification in experience. Being a thought, an idea gains as it is shared. It is strengthened by being given away. It increases in you as you give it to your brother. Your brother does not have to be aware for this miracle to occur. There are two diametrically opposed ways of seeing your brother. They must both be in your mind, because you are the perceiver. They must also be in his, because you perceive him. What you acknowledge in your brother you acknowledge in yourself, and what you share you strengthen. **The voice is weak in you. That is why you must share It.** It must be increased before you can hear It. It is not weak in strength, but is limited by unwillingness to hear It. Delay is of ego, because time is its concept. Spirit is the answer to ego. Everything of which Spirit reminds you is in direct opposition to ego's notions. Spirit has the task of undoing what ego made. It is undone it at the level on which ego operates, or mind would be unable to understand the change. Time is a belief of ego. The only aspect of time that is eternal is now. You cannot understand yourself alone. This is because you have no meaning apart from your rightful place. This vision frightens ego because it is so calm. If you believe there is strife you will react viciously, because the idea of danger has entered your mind. Ego is the symbol of separation. What you perceive in others you are strengthening in yourself.

Chapter 5 - Healing And Wholeness

§5. Teaching And Healing

What fear has hidden is still part of you. Spirit will help you reinterpret everything that you perceive as fearful, and teach you that only what is loving is true. Nothing that is good can be lost because it comes from Spirit. Nothing that is not good was ever created, and therefore cannot be protected. In the presence of those who hear Spirit's call to be as one, ego fades away and is undone. What ego makes it keeps to itself, and so it is without strength. You have carried the burden of unshared ideas, but having made them you did not **realize** how to undo them. They will not disappear from your mind without a pure act of sharing. Every loving thought held in any part belongs to every part. It is shared because it loves. Ideas of Spirit do not leave the mind that thinks them, nor can they conflict. Ideas of ego will conflict because they include opposite thoughts. It is impossible to share opposing thoughts. When they have been sufficiently purified you give them away. The decision to share is their purification. You do not want to show your brother anything except your wholeness. Show him that he cannot hurt you or you hold it against yourself. This is the meaning of turning the other cheek. Teaching is done above all by example. By following you are led back where you belong. As you teach so shall you learn. Everything you think that is not thru Spirit is lacking. How can you who are so holy suffer? All your past except its beauty is gone, and nothing is left but a blessing. All your kindnesses and every loving thought you ever had are beyond destruction and beyond guilt.

Chapter 5 - Healing And Wholeness

§6. Ego's Use Of Guilt

Ego has a purpose, just as Spirit has. Ego's purpose is fear. Ego's logic is as impeccable as that of Spirit. Your mind has the means to side with heaven or earth. **Remember** that both are in you. What is truly blessed is incapable of giving rise to guilt, and must give rise to joy. This makes it invulnerable to ego because its peace is unassailable. It is invulnerable to disruption because it is whole. Guilt is always disruptive. Anything that engenders fear is divisive because it obeys the law of division.

Ego is the part of the mind that believes in division. Ego is literally a fearful thought. It represents a delusional system.

Whatever you accept into your mind has reality for you.

It is your **acceptance** that makes it real; your allowing it to enter makes it your reality. This is because the mind is capable of creating reality or making illusions. Guilt is a sign that your thinking is unnatural. The guiltless mind cannot suffer. Being sane, the mind heals the body because it has been healed. The sane mind cannot conceive of illness. The question "What do you want?" must be answered. You are answering it every minute, and each moment you make a judgment. Its effects will follow automatically. Spirit, like ego, is a decision. Delusional ideas are not real thoughts, although you can believe in them. Irrational thought is disordered thought. Every disordered thought is attended by guilt at its inception, and maintained by guilt in its continuance. If you **accept** the remedy for this disordered thought, its symptoms cannot remain. Having given up disordered thought, the proper ordering of thought becomes quite apparent.

Chapter 5 - Healing And Wholeness

§7. Time And Eternity

Delay does not matter in eternity, but it is tragic in time. You have elected to be in time rather than eternity. Yet your election is both free and alterable. Your place is only in eternity. Guilt feelings are the preservers of time. They induce fears of retaliation or abandonment, and thus ensure that the future will be like the past. This is ego's continuity. It gives ego a false sense of security by believing that you cannot escape from it. You can and must. Ego speaks in judgment, and Spirit reverses its decision. Ego's decisions are always wrong. Nothing ego perceives is interpreted correctly. It is still true that where you look to find yourself is up to you. Your **patience** with your brother is your **patience** with yourself. Now you must learn that only infinite **patience** produces immediate effects. This is the way in which time is exchanged for eternity. Infinite **patience** calls upon infinite love, and by producing results now it renders time unnecessary. Time is a learning device to be abolished

when it is no longer useful. Spirit also knows that time is meaningless.

Chapter 5 - Healing And Wholeness

§8. The Decision For God

Do you really believe you can make a voice that can drown out God's? Do you really believe you can devise a thought system that can separate you from him? You can choose to **accept** his care and use the infinite power of his care for all those he created by it. There have been many healers who did not heal themselves. Unless the healer heals himself, he cannot believe that there is no order of difficulty in miracles. Every mind God created is equally worthy of being healed because God created it whole. Sanity is wholeness, and the sanity of your brothers is yours. God commended his spirit to you, and asks that you commend yours to him. He wills to keep it in perfect peace, because you are of one mind and spirit with him. Excluding yourself is ego's last-ditch defense of its own existence. It reflects ego's need to separate and your willingness to side with it. This means that you do not want to be healed. The time is now. You have not been asked to work out the plan of salvation because the remedy could not be of your making. God gave you the perfect correction for everything you made. Whenever you are not wholly joyous, it is because you have reacted with a lack of love. Perceiving this as sin you become defensive. The decision to react is yours, and can be undone. **It cannot be undone by repentance.** If you allow yourself to ever feel guilty, you will reinforce the error. Spirit will respond fully to your slightest invitation:

I must have decided wrongly, because I am not at peace.

I made the decision, therefore I can decide otherwise.

I want to decide otherwise, because I want to be at peace.

Chapter 6 - The Lessons Of Love

§1. Introduction

The relationship of anger to attack is obvious, but the relationship of anger to fear is not always so apparent. Anger always involves projection of separation, which must ultimately be **accepted** as one's own responsibility, rather than being blamed on others. Anger cannot occur unless you believe that

1. You have been attacked
2. Your attack is justified
3. You are in no way responsible for it.

Given these three wholly irrational premises, the equally irrational conclusion that a brother is worthy of attack rather than of love must follow. What can be expected from insane premises except an insane conclusion? The way to undo an insane conclusion is to consider the sanity of the premises on which it rests. You cannot be attacked, attack has no justification. You are responsible for what you believe. You have been asked to take me as your model for learning, since an extreme example is a particularly helpful learning device. Everyone teaches, and teaches all the time. This is a responsibility you inevitably assume the moment you accept any premise at all, and no one can organize his life without some thought system. **Once you develop a thought system of any kind, you live by it and teach it.** Your capacity for allegiance to a thought system may be misplaced, but it is still a form of faith and can be redirected.

Chapter 6 - The Lessons Of Love

§2. The Message Of The Crucifixion

For learning purposes, let us consider the crucifixion again. It was not a form of punishment. There is a positive interpretation that is devoid of fear, and benign in what it teaches. The crucifixion is an extreme example. Its value lies solely in the kind of learning it facilitates. It can be misunderstood. This is only because the fearful are apt to perceive fearfully. Crucifixion is the last useless journey, and it represents release from fear. Yet

it has a definite contribution to make to your life. You have reacted for years as if you were being crucified. This is a marked tendency of the separated, who always refuse to consider what they do to themselves. Projection means anger, anger fosters assault, and assault promotes fear. The message of the crucifixion is that it is not necessary to perceive any form of persecution. If you respond with anger, you are equating yourself with the destructible. If you react as if you are persecuted, you are teaching persecution. Rather, teach your own perfect immunity. You are not asked to be crucified. There can be no justification for the unjustifiable. Resurrection is your **reawakening**. When you hear only one Voice you are never called on to sacrifice. You are not persecuted. The crucifixion cannot be shared because it is the symbol of projection, but the resurrection is the symbol of sharing. The message of the crucifixion is perfectly clear:

Teach only love, for that is what you are.

If you interpret the crucifixion in any other way, you are using it as a weapon for assault rather than as the call for peace. The result is a lesson in blame, for all behavior teaches the beliefs that motivate it.

Chapter 6 - The Lessons Of Love

§3. The Alternative To Projection

Any split in mind involves rejection, and this is separation. Exclusion and separation are synonyms. Once it occurs, projection becomes its own defense. What you project you disown. You are excluding yourself by the judgment that you are different. You keep the fact that you attack yourself out of **awareness**. Yet projection will always hurt you. Ego justifies this on the grounds that it makes you seem better, obscuring equality still further. Projection and attack are related, because projection is always a means of justifying attack. Anger without projection is impossible. There is an alternative to projection. Spirit extends and ego projects. As their goals are opposed, so is the result. Spirit begins by perceiving you as perfect. Knowing this perfection is shared He **recognizes** it in others. Instead of anger this arouses love, because it establishes inclusion. This

invites Atonement automatically. To perceive yourself this way is the only way in which you can find happiness in the world. Spirit enables you to perceive wholeness now. As your mind is split, you can perceive as well as think. You perceive from your mind and project your perceptions outward. Perception of any kind is unreal. Since Spirit is in mind, mind can also believe what is true. Ego can accept the idea that return is necessary because it can easily make the idea seem difficult. Spirit tells you that even return is unnecessary. **You make the idea difficult.** You cannot experience perfection as difficult, because that is what you are. This is the way you must perceive creation. The great peace shines in your mind forever, but it must shine to make you aware of it. Each of us is the light of the world.

Chapter 6 - The Lessons Of Love

§4. The Relinquishment Of Attack

Every idea begins in the mind of the thinker. What extends from the mind is still in it. The word 'know' is correct here, because Spirit still holds knowledge safe in your mind thru impartial awareness. Therefore, being is never threatened. Your Godlike mind can never be defiled. Ego never was and never will be part of it, but thru ego you can hear and teach and learn what is not true. You have taught yourself to believe that you are not what you are. You cannot teach what you have not learned, and what you teach you strengthen in yourself because you share it. Every lesson you teach you are learning. That is why you must teach only one lesson. You are only love. When you deny this, you make what you are as something you must learn to **remember**. As you teach so will you learn, because what you project you believe. The perfectly safe are wholly benign. They bless because they know that they are blessed. Without anxiety the mind is wholly kind, and because it extends beneficence it is beneficent. Safety is the complete relinquishment of attack. **No compromise is possible.** Teach attack in any form and you have learned it, and it will hurt you. You can unlearn it by not teaching it. Your salvation lies in teaching the exact opposite of everything ego believes. This is how you will learn the truth that will set you free, and will keep you free as others learn it of you. The only way to have peace is to teach peace. By teaching

peace you must and will learn it yourself, because you cannot teach what you still dissociate. An idea that you share you must have. It **awakens** in your mind thru the conviction of teaching it. Everything you teach you are learning. Teach only love, and learn that love is yours and you are love.

Chapter 6 - The Lessons Of Love

§5. The Only Answer

Remember that Spirit is the Answer, not the question. Ego always speaks first. It does not mean its maker well. It believes that its maker may withdraw support from it at any moment. You made ego without love, and so it does not love you. You could not remain in the Kingdom without love, and since the Kingdom is love, you believe that you are without it. Ego raised the first question that was ever asked, but one it can never answer. That question, "What are you?" was the beginning of doubt. The most inventive activities of ego have never done more than obscure the question. You cannot understand conflict until you fully understand that ego cannot know anything. Spirit does not speak first, but always answers. Ego cannot hear Spirit. It believes that the best defense is attack, and wants you to believe it. Ego feels badly in need of allies, though not of brothers. You have chosen a sleep in which you have had bad dreams, but the sleep is not real. Dreams contain many of ego's symbols and they confuse you. Yet that was only because you were asleep and did not know. When you **awaken** you will see the truth around you, and you will no longer believe in dreams because they will have no reality for you. The introduction of abilities into being was the beginning of uncertainty. Abilities are potentials, not accomplishments. It is curious that the perfect must now be perfected. Abilities must be developed before you can use them. You are in an impossible situation because you think it is possible to be in one. Teaching aims at change. The separation was not a loss of perfection, but a failure in communication. A harsh form of communication arose as ego's voice. It could not shatter peace, but it could shatter yours.

Chapter 6 - The Lessons Of Love

§6. The Lessons Of The Holy Spirit

Spirit knows more than you do now, but teaches only to make you equal. You had already taught yourself wrongly, having believed what was not true. You did not believe in your own perfection. Giving His joy is an ongoing process, not in time but in eternity. How can you wake children in a more kindly way than by a gentle Voice that will not frighten them, but will merely remind them that the night is over and light has come? You do not inform them that the nightmares that frightened them so badly are not real, because children believe in magic. You merely reassure them that they are safe now. Then you train them to **recognize** the difference between sleeping and waking, so they will understand they need not be afraid of dreams. So when bad dreams come, they will themselves call on the light to dispel them. A wise teacher teaches thru approach, not avoidance. He does not emphasize what you must avoid to escape harm, but what you need to learn to have joy. Consider the fear and confusion a child would experience if he were told, "Do not do this because it will hurt you and make you unsafe; but if you do that instead, you will escape from harm and be safe, and then you will not be afraid." It is surely better to use only three words: Do only that! This simple statement is perfectly clear, easily understood and very easily **remembered**. Spirit never itemizes errors. Children confuse fantasy and reality, and they are frightened because they do not **recognize** the difference. Spirit makes no distinction among dreams. He merely shines them away. His light is the Call to **awaken**, whatever you have been dreaming. Nothing lasting lies in dreams, and Spirit speaks only for what lasts forever.

Chapter 6 - The Lessons Of Love

§7. To Have, Give All To All

Everything is accomplished thru life, and life is of the mind and in the mind. The body neither lives nor dies, as it cannot contain you who are. God did not make the body, because it is destructible. The body is the symbol of what you think you are. It is a separation device, and therefore does not exist. The Spirit takes what you have made and then translates it into a learning

device. As always, it reinterprets what ego uses as argument for separation into a demonstration against it. If the mind can heal the body, but the body cannot heal the mind, then the mind must be stronger than the body. Every miracle demonstrates this. The body is separate, and therefore cannot be part of you. To be of one mind is meaningful, but to be one body is meaningless. By the laws of mind, body is meaningless. You cannot perform miracles without believing it, because it is a belief in perfect equality. Ego uses the body for attack, pleasure and pride. Perhaps you think that fear as well as love can be communicated; and therefore can be shared. Yet this is not so real as it may appear. Those who communicate fear are promoting attack, and attack always breaks communication, making communication impossible. Teaching begins with the **first lesson**:

To have, give all to all.

(See §8)

This is a very preliminary step, and the only one you must take for yourself. It is not even necessary that you complete the step yourself, but it is necessary that you turn in that direction. This may appear to exacerbate conflict rather than resolve it, because it is the beginning step in reversing your perception and turning it right-side up.

Chapter 6 - The Lessons Of Love

§8. To Have Peace, Teach Peace To Learn It

All who believe in separation have a fear of retaliation and abandonment. So they believe in attack and rejection. These insane ideas are the result of dissociation and projection. What you teach you are, but you can teach wrongly, and can therefore teach yourself wrong. An insane learner learns strange lessons. What you must **recognize** is that when you do not share a thought system, you are weakening it. Everyone identifies himself with his thought system, and every thought system centers on what you believe you are. If the center of the thought system is true, only truth extends from it. If a lie is at its center, only deception proceeds from it. Only fundamental change will last. Strengthening motivation for change is the first and foremost goal. Increasing motivation for change is all that a

teacher need to guarantee change. This will produce fundamental change because the mind is fundamental. The first step in the reversal process is undoing the getting concept. Upside down as always, ego perceives the first lesson as insane. There can be no conflict between sanity and insanity. You are not asked to make insane decisions. Spirit perceives the conflict exactly as it is. Therefore, the **second lesson** is:

To have peace, teach peace to learn it.

(See §9)

This is preliminary, since having and being are still not equated. It is more advanced than the first step, which is only the beginning of thought reversal. This is essential for the decision, it is not the final one. The second step is still perceptual. At the second step progress is intermittent, but the second is easier than the first.

Chapter 6 - The Lessons Of Love

§9. Be Vigilant For God And His Kingdom

Spirit sorts true from false in your mind. What is in accord with light is retained. What is partly in accord is purified. What is out of accord entirely is rejected. What Spirit rejects ego accepts. Ego promotes different moods. The one mood Spirit engenders is joy. Spirit's **third lesson** is:

Be vigilant only for God and His Kingdom.

This follows from the second as the second follows from the first. The first step seems to increase conflict and the second may entail conflict to some extent, this step calls for consistency. You can be as **vigilant** against ego as for it. This teaches there must be no exceptions. The third step brings together the lessons in the others, and goes beyond towards integration. You teach peace because you believe in it. You learn first that having rests on giving, and not on getting. Next you learn that you learn what you teach, and you want to learn peace. You believe you are without, and have therefore excluded yourself. You must be included, and the belief that you are not is the only thing you must exclude. Ego speaks against creation, and engenders doubt. You cannot go beyond belief until you believe fully. A real sense of being cannot be yours while you are doubtful.

Vigilance is essential. Doubts about being must not enter your mind. What you made imprisoned your will, and given you a sick mind. Your **vigilance** against sickness is the way to heal it. Once your mind is healed it radiates health, and thereby teaches healing. **Vigilance** does require effort, but only until you learn that effort itself is unnecessary. You have exerted great effort to preserve what you made because it was not true.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§1. The Last Step

The creative power of God and his creations is limitless, but they are not reciprocal. You communicate with God, as he does with you. This is an ongoing process you share, and because you share, you are inspired to create like God. In creation you are not in a reciprocal relation to God, as he created you but you did not create him. Only in this respect do your creative power differ. Even in this world there is a parallel. Parents give birth to children; children do not give birth to parents. God's creative thought proceeds from him to you. Your creative thought proceeds from you to your creations. Only in this way can creative power extend. **You claim power when you become vigilant.** By **accepting** this power you have learned to **remember** what you are. To create is to love. Love extends outward simply because it cannot be contained. Ego demands reciprocal rights, because it is competitive rather than loving. It is always willing to bargain, and cannot understand that to be like another means no bargain is possible. To gain you must give, not bargain. To bargain is to limit. God does not limit gifts in any way. Only joy increases forever, since joy and eternity are inseparable. The last step in the **awakening** is taken by God. God does not take steps, because accomplishments are not gradual. He does not teach, because creations are changeless. He does nothing last, because he created for always. The word 'first' as applied to Him is not a time concept.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§2. The Law Of The Kingdom

When a brother perceives himself as sick, he perceives himself in need. If you see him this way, you see him as separated, making the Kingdom obscure to both of you. To heal is to correct perception in your brother and yourself by sharing Spirit. This reflects creation, because it unifies by increasing and integrates by extending. What you project or extend is real for you. However, the content is different in this world, because the thoughts it governs are different. Laws must be adapted to circumstances if they are to maintain order. The outstanding

characteristic of the laws of mind, as they operate in this world, is that by obeying them you can arrive at opposed results. The laws have been adapted to the circumstances of this world, in which opposed outcomes seem possible because you can respond to conflicting voices. You will learn what you are from what you have projected to others, and therefore believe what they are. Spirit is the translator to those who do not understand. **You cannot do this yourself because a conflicted mind cannot be faithful to one meaning, and will therefore change meaning.** The extension of truth rests only on the knowledge of what truth is. Spirit's teaching is a lesson in **remembering**. What can perfect consistency mean to the confused? Confusion interferes with meaning, and prevents the learner from appreciating. Communication is perfectly direct and perfectly united. It is totally free, because nothing discordant ever enters. That is reality, and nothing can assail it.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§3. The Reality Of The Kingdom

Spirit teaches one lesson, and applies it to all individuals in all situations. Being conflict-free, it maximizes efforts and results. Its application does not matter. It is always maximal. Your **vigilance** does not establish it as yours, but it does enable you to use it. You can see yourself as separated from your meaning only by experiencing yourself as unreal. This is why ego is insane; it teaches that you are not what you are. **You are always teaching.** You must be teaching something else, even though ego does not know what it is. Mind cannot be unified in allegiance to ego, because mind does not belong to it. What is treacherous to ego is faithful to peace. Look for brothers and **recognize** all. Only equals are at peace. If they perceive any brothers as anything other than equals, competition enters. Do not underestimate your need to be **vigilant** against this, because all conflicts come from it. It is the belief that conflicting interests are possible, and you have accepted the impossible as true. As long as you believe you can attend to what is not true, you are accepting conflict. Reality is yours because you are reality. The certain are perfectly calm; they are not in doubt.

They do not raise questions, because nothing questionable enters their minds. This holds them in perfect serenity.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§4. Healing As The Recognition Of Truth

Truth can only be **recognized** and need only be **recognized**. Healing does not come directly from God, Who knows creation as perfectly whole. Those who sleep are unaware. Forgetting is a way of **remembering** better. It is not the opposite of **remembering** when properly perceived. Perceived improperly, it induces a perception of conflict. Properly perceived, it can be a way out of conflict, as all proper perception can. Ego does not want to teach everyone all it learned, because that would defeat its purpose. Therefore it does not really learn at all. All you need do is make the effort to learn. If different abilities are applied long enough to one goal, the abilities become unified. They are channeled in one direction. They contribute to one result. Your forgetting must now translate into a way of **remembering**. Ego always seeks to divide and separate. Healing is the way to undo the belief in differences. Without this **recognition**, you have made the laws meaningless to you. Yet the laws are not meaningless, since all meaning is contained by them and in them. Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven. Seek this only, because you can find nothing else. Healing is a way of forgetting the sense of danger ego induced, by not **recognizing** its existence in your brother. By **awakening** to it, you are merely forgetting what you are not. This enables you to **remember** what you are.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§5. Healing & The Changelessness Of Mind

The body is a framework for developing abilities, which is quite apart from what they are used for. The effects of ego's decision are so apparent they need no elaboration. Only minds can communicate. Since ego cannot obliterate the impulse to communicate, it can teach that the body can both communicate and create. Ego thus tries to teach that the body can act like the mind. This will weaken you as a learner because you teach what you believe. Healing is the one ability everyone can develop and must develop if he is to be healed. Spirit does not accept ego's

confusion of mind and body. Minds can communicate, but they cannot hurt. A body in the service of ego can hurt other bodies, but this will not occur unless body has been confused with mind. Healing perceives nothing in the healer that everyone else does not share with him. Healing is consistent. Only the conflict-free are whole. Only if there is fear does the idea of exceptions seem meaningful. Exceptions are fearful because they are made by fear. Fear induces separation. Healing produces harmony. The unhealed healer wants gratitude from his brothers, but he is not grateful to them. That is because he thinks he is giving to them, and is not receiving in return. As you can hear two voices, so you can see in two ways. One shows you an image you may worship out of fear, but will never love. The other shows you truth, which you will love because you will understand. Ego is unable to understand, because it does not appreciate and does not love. Our brothers forget. They need your **remembrance**.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§6. From Vigilance To Peace

Attack is never discrete; it must be relinquished entirely. If it is not relinquished entirely it is not relinquished at all. Fear and love make or create; they will reflect to the mind of the thinker and they will affect total perception. The mind that accepts attack cannot begin to love. This is losing **awareness** of being and induces feelings of unreality and utter confusion. Your thinking has done this because of its power. **Your thinking can also save you from this.** Your ability to direct your thinking as you choose is its power. If you do not believe this you have denied the power of thought, and rendered it powerless. The cleverness of ego to preserve itself is enormous, but it stems from the very power of the mind that ego denies. Ego never recognizes what it is doing. It is insane. Fearful of the power of this source, it depreciates it. This ensures its continuance if you side with it, by guaranteeing you will not know your own safety. Ego cannot afford to know anything. Knowledge is total, and ego does not believe in totality. Mind always reproduces as it was produced. Produced by fear, ego reproduces fear. Love is your power, which ego must deny. It must also deny everything this power gives you. Mind can make up illusions, and if it does so it

will believe them, because that is how it made them. Belief does not require **vigilance** unless it is conflicted. While you believe that two totally contradictory thought systems share truth, your need for **vigilance** is apparent. The Oneness of Creator and creation is your wholeness, sanity and limitless power. If you dissociate your mind from it you perceive the most powerful force in the universe as if it were weak, because you do not believe you are part of it.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§7. The Totality Of The Kingdom

Whenever you deny a blessing to a brother you will feel deprived, because denial is as total as love. You cannot be totally committed sometimes. Reality cannot be partly appreciated. That is why denying any part of it means you have lost the **awareness** of all of it. You will never be able to exclude yourself from your thoughts. When a brother acts insanely, he is offering you an opportunity to bless him. You need the blessing you give. What you deny you lack, not because it is lacking, but because you have denied it in another and are therefore not aware of it in yourself. Every response you make is determined by what you think you are. Your brother is the mirror in which you see the image of yourself. **Illusions are investments.** They last as long as you value them. The only way to dispel illusions is to withdraw investment. While you include them, you are giving life to them. Except there is nothing there to receive your gift. The gift of life is yours to give, because it was given you. You are unaware of your gift because you do not give it. You cannot know your own perfection until you honor all. One Teacher is in all minds and teaches the same lesson to all. Every attack is a call for **patience**. Those who attack do not know they are blessed. They attack because they believe they are deprived. Give of your abundance. Perceive any part of ego's thought system as wholly insane, delusional and undesirable, and you have correctly evaluated all of it. This correction enables you to perceive any part of creation as wholly real, wholly perfect and wholly desirable.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§8. The Unbelievable Belief

Without projection there is no anger. Without extension there can be no love. These reflect a fundamental law of mind, and one that always operates. To ego, the law is a means of getting rid of something it does not want. To Spirit, it is the fundamental law of sharing, by which you give what you value in order to keep it in your mind. It produces abundance or scarcity, depending on how you apply it. **This choice is up to you.** Ego always tries to preserve conflict. It is ingenious in devising ways that seem to diminish conflict. Ego tries to persuade you that it can free you. Ego utilizes the power of mind to defeat real purpose. It projects conflict to others to persuade you that you have gotten rid of the problem. There are major errors involved in this attempt. **First**, conflict cannot be projected because it cannot be shared. **Second** is the idea you get rid of something by giving it away. You cannot perpetuate an illusion in another without perpetuating it in yourself. Ego is a confusion in identification. Never having any consistent model, it never developed consistently. Do not be afraid of ego. Do not project your belief onto anyone else, or you preserve the belief. When you are willing to **accept** sole responsibility for ego's existence, you will have laid aside all anger and all attack, because they come from an attempt to project responsibility for your own errors. The more you learn about ego, the less it can be believed. The purpose of this course is to teach you that ego is unbelievable and will forever be unbelievable. Your wholeness has no limits because being is infinity.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§9. The Extension Of The Kingdom

Only you can limit your creative power. Spirit knows that **awareness** of all its brothers is included in its own. Ego cannot prevail against a totality that includes God, and any totality must include God. Everything he created is given all his power, because it is part of him and shares his being with him. Creating is the opposite of loss, as blessing is the opposite of sacrifice. Being must be extended. That is how it retains knowledge of itself. Spirit yearns to share its being. Created by sharing, its will

is to create. It does not wish to contain, but wills to extend Being. The extension of Being is Spirit's only function. Its fullness cannot be contained, any more than can the fullness of its Creator. Fullness is extension. Ego's whole thought system blocks extension, and thus blocks your only function. It therefore blocks your joy, so you perceive yourself as unfulfilled. Unless you create you are unfulfilled, and therefore you must create. You may not know your own creations, but this can no more interfere with their reality than your un-**awareness** of your spirit can interfere with its being. The Kingdom is forever extending. You do not know your joy because you do not know your own Self-fullness. Exclude any part of the Kingdom from yourself and you are not whole. A split mind cannot perceive its fullness, and needs the miracle of its wholeness to dawn upon it and heal it. The full appreciation of the mind's Self-fullness makes selfishness impossible and extension inevitable. That is why there is perfect peace in the Kingdom. Spirit is fulfilling its function, and only complete fulfillment is peace. Your creations are protected for you. They are there as part of your own being.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§10. The Confusion Of Pain And Joy

You may have carried ego's reasoning to its conclusion, which is total confusion about everything. If you really saw this result you could not want it. The only reason you could want any part of it is because you do not see the whole of it. You are willing to look at ego's premises, but not at their outcome. Whatever your beliefs may be, they are premises that will determine what you **accept** into your mind. It is clear that you can **accept** into your mind what is not there, and deny what is. The ability to see a logical outcome depends on willingness to see it, but truth has nothing to do with willingness. Spirit will direct you so as to avoid pain. **The problem is whether you want to listen.** What is joyful to you is painful to ego. As long as you are in doubt about what you are, you will be confused about joy and pain. If you believe this, there is no conflict. Spirit never asks for sacrifice, but ego always does. No one gladly obeys a guide he does not trust, but this does not mean that the guide is untrustworthy. In this case, it means that the follower is.

Believing that he can betray, he believes that everything can betray him. Yet this is only because he has elected to follow false guidance. The only way out of error is to decide that you do not decide anything. The miracle is a lesson in what joy is. Being a lesson in sharing it is a lesson in love. Every miracle is a lesson in truth, and by offering truth you are learning the difference between pain and joy.

Chapter 7 - The Gifts Of The Kingdom

§11. The State Of Grace

Spirit will always guide you truly. The world goes against your nature. The world perceives orders of difficulty in everything. Ego perceives nothing as wholly desirable. By demonstrating to yourself there is no order of difficulty in miracles, you convince yourself that there is no difficulty because it is a state of grace. Grace is the natural state. When not in grace, one is out of his natural environment and does not function well. Everything becomes a strain, because he was not created for the environment that he made. He cannot adapt to it. There is no point in trying. Does it protect his peace and shine love on him? Does it keep his heart untouched by fear, and allow him to give always, without any sense of loss? Does it teach him that this giving is his joy? That is the only environment in which you can be happy. You cannot make it, any more than you can make yourself. You could give love to everything you see and touch and **remember**. There are no exceptions to this lesson, because the lack of exceptions is the lesson. Everyone who learns this lesson has become the perfect teacher, because he has learned of Spirit. When a mind has only light, it knows only light. Its own radiance shines all around it, and extends out to the darkness of other minds. If you **recognize** this gift in anyone, you have acknowledged what has been given you. Nothing is so easy to **recognize** as truth. This **recognition** is immediate, clear and natural. You have trained yourself not to **recognize** it, and this has been difficult for you. You do not know your creations because you do not know your brothers. When you heal a brother by **recognizing** his worth, you are acknowledging his power to create and yours. Being is known by sharing.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Back

§1. The Direction Of The Curriculum

Knowledge is not the motivation for this course. Peace is. This is the prerequisite for knowledge only because those in conflict are not peaceful, and peace is the condition of knowledge. Knowledge can be restored when you meet its conditions. It is the result of your misuse of laws on behalf of an imaginary will. Distractions of ego seem to interfere with learning, but ego has no power to distract unless you give it power. Ego's voice is hallucination. You cannot expect it to say "I am not real." Evaluate hallucinations in terms of their results to you. If you do not want the basis of loss of peace, they will be removed from your mind. Every response to ego is a war call. Yet in this war there is no opponent. This is the reinterpretation that you must make to secure peace, and the only one you need make. Those you perceive as opponents are part of your peace, which you are giving up by attacking them. You share to have, but you do not give it up yourself. When you give up peace, you are excluding yourself from it. Your past taught you the wrong things, because it has not made you happy. Its value should be questioned. If learning aims at change, are you satisfied with the changes? Dissatisfaction with outcomes is a sign of learning failure. If the outcome of yours has made you unhappy, and if you want a different one, a change in the curriculum is necessary. The first change is a change in direction. A meaningful curriculum cannot be inconsistent. If it is managed by two teachers simultaneously, each one interferes with the other. Conflict teaches that all directions exist, and gives no rationale. If you listen to both, your mind will be split about your reality.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Back

§2. The Difference Between Imprisonment And Freedom

There is a rationale for choice. Learning to remove the obstacles to knowledge is the purpose of the curriculum. Ego does not understand anything. As a teacher, ego is totally confusing. Even if you could disregard Spirit entirely, you could still learn nothing from ego, because ego knows nothing. Does the total disregard

of anything it teaches make anything but sense? Is this the teacher whom one should turn to find himself? Ego has never given a sensible answer to anything. Simply on the grounds of your own experience with its teaching, should not this alone disqualify it as your future teacher? Ego has done more harm to your learning than this alone. Learning is joyful if it leads development of what you have. When you are taught against your nature you will lose by your learning because your learning will imprison you. Your will is in your nature. It is not your will to be imprisoned. This is why ego is the denial of free will. The difference between pain and joy is the same as the difference between prison and freedom. When you acknowledge this you bring the knowledge automatically to everyone, because you have acknowledged everyone. By your **recognition** you **awaken** theirs, and thru theirs yours is extended. **Awakening** runs easily and gladly. This is the natural response.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Back

§3. The Holy Encounter

Ask for light and learn you are light. There is no limit on learning because there is no limit on mind. Understanding function perfectly fulfills it perfectly. When accomplished, there is no other experience. The wish for other experience will block its accomplishment. Let Spirit teach you. When you meet anyone, **remember** it is a holy encounter. Do not leave anyone without giving salvation to him and receiving it yourself. The goal of the curriculum, regardless of the teacher you choose, is Know Thyself. **There is nothing else to seek.** Whenever you are with anyone, you have another opportunity to find them. Your power and glory are in him because they are yours. Ego tries to find them in yourself alone. Spirit teaches that if you look only at yourself you cannot find yourself, because that is not what you are. When you are with a brother, you are learning what you are because you are teaching what you are. He will respond either with pain or with joy, depending on which teacher you follow. He is imprisoned or released according to your decision, and so are you. Never forget your responsibility to him, because it is your responsibility to yourself. To achieve the goal, you cannot listen to ego, whose purpose defeats its own goal. Ego does not

know this, because it does not know anything. You can know it, and you will know it if you are willing to look at what ego would make of you. **This is your responsibility.** Having made this simple choice, you will understand why you once believed that, when you met someone else, you thought he was someone else. Every holy encounter in which you enter fully will teach you.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Back

§4. The Gift Of Freedom

Your world denies itself everything. It does this by dissociating itself. It is therefore an illusion of isolation, maintained by fear of the same loneliness that is its illusion. You cannot maintain the illusion of loneliness if you are not alone. Light does not attack darkness, but it does shine it away. **Remembrance** is **remembrance** of yourself. Teach peace and union. Do you not think the world needs peace as much as you do? Do you not want to give it to the world as much as you want to receive it? Unless you do, you will not receive it. You must **accept** guidance from within. Guidance must be what you want, or it will be meaningless to you. That is why meditation is a collaborative venture. Healing is the way in which the separation is overcome. Separation is overcome by union. It cannot be overcome by separating. The decision to unite must be unequivocal, or the mind itself is divided and not whole. Your mind is the means by which you determine your own condition, because mind is the mechanism of decision. It is the power by which you separate or join, and experience pain or joy accordingly. In **remembrance** lies your freedom. Whom you seek to imprison you do not love. When you seek to imprison anyone, including yourself, you do not love him and you cannot identify with him. When you imprison yourself you are losing sight of your true identification.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Back

§5. The Undivided Will Of The Sonship

Can you be separate from your identification and at peace? Dissociation is not a solution; it is delusion. The delusional believe that truth assails them, and they do not **recognize** it because they prefer the delusion. Judging truth as something

they do not want, they perceive illusions that block knowledge. Help them by offering your unified mind on their behalf. Together our minds fuse into something whose power is far beyond the power of its separate parts. This Mind is invincible because it is undivided. The undivided will is the perfect creator. You cannot be exempt from it if you understand what it is and what you are. Yet to heal is still to make whole. To heal is to unite with those who are just like you. The **recognition** of God is the **recognition** of you. You **realize** this when you understand that there is no separation between your will and mine. Whenever fear intrudes anywhere along the road to peace, it is because ego has attempted to join the journey and cannot do so. Sensing defeat and angered, ego regards itself as rejected and retaliates. You are not vulnerable to its retaliation. On this journey you have chosen me as your companion instead of ego. Do not attempt to hold on to both, or you will try to go in different directions and will lose the way. Ego's way is not yours. Spirit has one direction for all minds. Never accord ego the power to interfere with the journey. It has none, because the journey is the way to what is true. Leave all illusions behind, and reach beyond all attempts of ego to hold you back. Reach for my hand because you want to transcend ego. My strength will never be wanting, and if you choose to share it you will do so. I give it willingly and gladly, because I need you as much as you need me.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Back

§6. The Treasure Of God

We begin the journey back by setting out together, and gather in our brothers as we continue together. Every gain in our strength is offered for all, so they too can lay aside their weakness and add their strength to us. Forget not the Kingdom for anything the world has to offer. The world can blind the sons if they behold it. No one created can find joy in anything except the eternal; not because he is deprived of anything else, but because nothing else is worthy of him. You made neither yourself nor your function. You made only the decision to be unworthy of both. You cannot make yourself unworthy. There can be no question of worth. **You do not understand this.** No

one who does not **accept** his function can understand what it is, and no one can **accept** his function unless he knows what he is. An unwilling will does not mean anything, being a contradiction in terms that means nothing. Thought is so powerful that it can even imprison the mind if you choose. This choice makes function unknown. Our function is to work together, because apart from each other we cannot function at all. The whole power lies in all of us, but not in any of us alone. Our creations are as holy as we are. Thru our creations we extend our love, and thus increase joy. You do not understand this, because you do not regard yourself as valuable. Given this belief, you cannot understand anything. We cannot be separated. Can you be separated from your life and your being? The journey is merely the **reawakening** of the knowledge of where and what you are forever. It is a journey without distance to a goal that has never changed. Truth can only be experienced. It cannot be described and it cannot be explained. Free the holy will of all those who are as blessed as you are.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Back

§7. Body As A Means Of Communication

Attack is physical. If attack in any form enters your mind you equate yourself with a body. You do not have to attack physically to accept this. If you did not believe this, the idea of attack would have no appeal. Spirit interprets body only as a means of communication. Ego separates thru body. Spirit reaches thru it to others. You do not regard bodies solely as a means of joining minds. This interpretation of body will change your mind entirely about its value. If you use a body for attack, it is harmful to you. If you use it only to reach the minds of those who believe they are bodies, and teach them thru the body that this is not so, you will understand the power of the mind that is in you. If you use the body for this and only for this, you cannot use it for attack. In the service of uniting it becomes a beautiful lesson in communion. Spirit does not see a body as you do. Communication ends separation. Attack promotes it. **In the body of another you will see the use to which you have put your body.** When you look upon a brother as physical, his glory is lost to you and so is yours. You have

attacked him, but you attacked yourself first. Do not see him this way for your own salvation. Do not allow him to belittle himself in your mind. Healing is the result of using the body solely for communication. By reaching out, mind extends itself. Mind that is blocked has allowed itself to be vulnerable to attack. The removal of blocks is the only way to guarantee healing. Help and healing are the normal expressions of a mind that is working thru the body, but not in it. If the body is brought under the purpose of the mind, it becomes whole because the mind's purpose is one. When you see a brother as a body, you condemn him because you have condemned yourself.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Back

§8. Body As Means Or End

Attitudes toward the body are attitudes toward attack. A body is not the source of its own health. Your body's condition lies in interpretation of its function. Functions are part of being since they rise from it. The whole defines the part, but the part does not define the whole. Yet to know in part is to know entirely. In perception the whole is built up of parts that can separate and reassemble in different combinations. But knowledge never changes. The idea of part-whole relationships has meaning only at the level of perception, where change is possible. Otherwise, there is no difference between the part and whole. The body exists in a world that seems to contain two voices fighting for its possession. The body is seen as capable of shifting its allegiance from one to the other, making both health and sickness meaningful. You notice a trait of every end ego has accepted. When achieved, it has not satisfied. Ego is forced to shift from one goal to another. Ego has a profound investment in sickness. If you are sick, how can you object to ego's belief that you are vulnerable? This is appealing in ego's view, because it obscures the attack that underlies sickness. It is hard to perceive sickness as a false witness, because you do not **realize** that it is entirely out of keeping with what you want. Ego does not call upon witnesses who would disagree with its case, nor does Spirit. Ego as a judge gives anything but an impartial judgment. When ego calls on a witness, it has made the witness an ally. It is still true that the body has no function of itself, because it is not an end

in itself. Ego, however, establishes it as an end because its true function is obscured. This is the purpose of everything ego does. It loses sight of the function of everything. A sick body does not make any sense. It could not make sense because sickness is not what the body is for. Sickness is meaningful only if the two basic premises on which ego's interpretation of the body rests are true; that a body is for attack, and that you are a body. Ego dictates endless methods for avoiding outcomes. Spirit, perfectly aware, does not analyze at all. If data is meaningless there is no point in analyzing. The more complicated the results become the harder it is to **recognize** their nothingness. You do not know how you feel because you have accepted ego's confusion. Ego is incapable of knowing how you feel. If only knowledge has being and ego has no knowledge, then ego has no being. What you want distorts perception. No one can doubt ego's skill in building up false cases. Nor can anyone doubt your willingness to listen until you choose not to **accept** anything except truth. Spirit's voice is as loud as your willingness to listen. Spirit teaches you to use your body only to reach your brothers. This will heal them and therefore heal you. **Do not allow the body to reflect your decision to attack.** Health is seen as the natural state of everything when interpretation is left to Spirit, which perceives no attack. Health comes from relinquishing attempts to use the body lovelessly.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Back

§9. Healing As Corrected Perception

When ego tempts you to sickness do not ask Spirit to heal the body, for this would accept ego's belief that the body is the aim of healing. Ask Spirit to teach you right perception of the body. Only perception can be sick. The reality of everything is totally harmless. It is the condition of **awareness**. You do not have to seek reality. It will seek you when you meet its conditions. Only this part is up to you. You need do so little because your little part is so powerful that it will bring the whole to you. **Accept**, then, your little part, and let the whole be yours. Wholeness heals because it is of mind. How you wake is the sign of how you have used sleep. To whom did you give it? Under which teacher did you place it? Whenever you wake dispiritedly, it was

not given to Spirit. Only when you **awaken** have you used sleep according to purpose. You can indeed be drugged by sleep, if you have misused it on behalf of sickness. The decision to wake is the reflection of the will to love, since all healing involves replacing fear with love. Ego always wants to weaken mind and tries to separate it from the body. Ego despises weakness, even though it makes every effort to induce it. Ego wants only what it hates. To ego this is perfectly sensible. Believing in the power of attack, ego wants attack. You have surely begun to **realize** that this is a very practical course, and one that means exactly what it says. Sickness is not of the body, but of mind. All forms of sickness are signs that mind is split, and does not accept a unified purpose. The unification of purpose, then, is Spirit's only way of healing. It is the only level at which healing means anything. **Your task is only to meet the conditions for meaning.**

Chapter 9 - The Acceptance Of Atonement

§1. The Acceptance Of Reality

Reality cannot threaten anything except illusions. It is impossible to learn anything consistently in a state of panic. If the purpose of this course is to help you **remember** what you are. If you believe that you are fearful, then you will not learn the teachings of this course. You have imprisoned your will beyond your **awareness**. Willing is salvation because it is communication. A divided mind cannot communicate, as it speaks for different things to the same mind. Confused communication does not mean anything. You may insist that Spirit does not answer, but it is wiser to consider the kind of questioner you are. You do not ask for what you want. This is because you are afraid you might receive it, and you would. You cannot be safe from truth, but only in truth. Reality is the only safety. In the presence of truth, there are no sacrifices. In the security of reality, fear is meaningless. Fear cannot be real without a cause. You can ask for everything of Spirit, because your requests are of your right mind. The belief that you must have the impossible in order to be happy is totally at variance with the principle of creation. If you deny love, you will not know it because cooperation is the law of its being. Reality is everything, and you have everything because you are real. You cannot make the unreal and fear cannot be created. Opposing orders of reality make reality meaningless, and reality is meaning. If you distort reality you will experience depression and panic. When you feel these things, do not try to look beyond for truth; truth can only be within you.

Chapter 9 - The Acceptance Of Atonement

§2. The Answer To Prayer

Everyone who ever tried to use prayer to ask for something has experienced failure. You must **remember** that the course states its purpose is the escape from fear. There are answers you have already received but not heard. I assure you that they are waiting for you. Can you ask of Spirit truly, and doubt your brother? You will unite with the truth in him, and his words will be true. The message your brother gives you is up to you. Your decision about him determines the message you receive. Your

brother may not know who he is. Spirit extends from your mind to his, and answers. You will be answered as you hear the answer in everyone. They will answer you if you learn to ask only truth. Do not ask for blessings without blessing them. To believe is not to be gullible, but to **accept** and appreciate. What you do not believe you do not appreciate. You cannot be grateful for what you do not value. There is a price you will pay for judgment. As you set the price you will pay it. If paying is equated with getting, you will set the price low but demand a high return. You will then have forgotten that your return is in proportion to your judgment of worth. To receive is to **accept**, not to get. It is impossible not to have, but it is possible not to know you have.

Chapter 9 - The Acceptance Of Atonement

§3. The Correction Of Error

The alertness of ego to errors of other egos is not the kind of **vigilance** Spirit would have you maintain. To ego it is right to point out errors. This makes perfect sense to ego, which is unaware of what errors are and what correction is. Errors are of ego. Correction of errors lies in the relinquishment of ego. When you correct a brother, you are telling him that he is wrong. He may be making no sense. Your task is still to tell him he is right. You do not tell him this verbally. He needs correction at another level, because his error is at another level. Spirit does not perceive his errors. There is no communication between ego and Spirit. Ego makes no sense, and Spirit does not attempt to understand anything from it. Since he does not understand it, he does not judge it, knowing that nothing about ego means anything at all. When you react at all to errors, you are not listening to Spirit. You are listening to ego and making as little sense as the brother whose errors you perceive. This cannot be correction. It is the giving up of correction in you. When a brother behaves insanely, you can heal him only by perceiving the sanity in him. How is this different from telling you that what you teach you learn? **You cannot correct yourself.** Is it possible for you to correct another? It is not up to you to change your brother, but merely to **accept** him as he is. To perceive

errors in anyone, and to react to them as if they were real, is to make them real to you.

Chapter 9 - The Acceptance Of Atonement

§4. The Holy Spirit's Plan Of Forgiveness

Atonement is for all, because it is the way to undo the belief that anything is for you alone. To forgive is to overlook. Look beyond error and do not let your perception rest upon it, for you believe what your perception holds. **Accept** as true only what your brother is, if you would know yourself. Perceive what he is not and you cannot know what you are, because you will see him falsely. **Remember** always that your Identity is shared, and that its sharing is its reality. If you do not follow this Guide, your errors will not be corrected. The plan is not yours because of your limited ideas about what you are. This sense of limitation is where all errors arise. Forgiveness thru Spirit lies simply in looking beyond error from the beginning. Do not let any belief in its realness enter your mind, or you will also believe that you must undo what you have made in order to be forgiven. What has no effect does not exist. Follow Spirit's teaching in forgiveness. The confusion of function is so typical of ego that you should be familiar with it by now. Ego believes that all functions belong to it, even though it has no idea what they are. This is more than mere confusion. It is a particularly dangerous combination of grandiosity and confusion that makes ego likely to attack anyone and anything for no reason at all. This is always exactly what ego does. It is unpredictable in its responses, because it has no idea of what it perceives. If you have no idea what is happening, how can you expect to react? Anyone who elects a totally insane guide must be totally insane himself. You do not **realize** the guide is insane. Only this **awareness** heals, because it is the **awareness** of truth.

Chapter 9 - The Acceptance Of Atonement

§5. The Unhealed Healer

Ego's plan for forgiveness is more widely used than God's. This is because it is undertaken by unhealed healers, and is therefore of ego. Consider the unhealed healer more carefully. By definition, he is trying to give what he has not received. If an

unhealed healer is a theologian, he may begin with "I am a miserable sinner, and so are you." If a psychotherapist, he is likely to start with the incredible belief that attack is real for both himself and the patient, but that it does not matter. Beliefs of ego cannot be shared, and they are unreal. How can uncovering them make them real? Every healer who searches fantasies for truth must be unhealed, because he does not know where to look for truth. There is advantage to bringing nightmares into **awareness**, to teach they are not real. All unhealed healers follow ego's plan for forgiveness. If they are theologians they are likely to condemn themselves and advocate a fearful solution. What they have done is to identify with ego, and by perceiving what it does, condemn themselves because of this confusion. There have been revolts against this concept, but to revolt against it is still to believe in it. Some newer forms of ego's plan are as unhelpful as the older ones, because form does not matter and the content has not changed. In one of the forms a psychotherapist may interpret ego's symbols in a nightmare, and then prove that the nightmare is real. Having made it real, he then attempts to dispel its effects by reducing the importance of the dreamer. This would be a healing approach if the dreamer were also identified as unreal. Yet if the dreamer is equated with the mind, the mind's corrective power thru Spirit is denied.

Chapter 9 - The Acceptance Of Atonement

§6. The Acceptance Of Your Brother

How can you become increasingly aware of Spirit in you except by effects? You cannot see correctly with your eyes nor hear correctly with your ears. How, then, can you perceive at all? If you inspire joy and others react to you with joy there must be something in you that is capable of producing it. **When you are inconsistent you will not always give rise to joy, and so you will not always recognize consistency.** What you offer to your brother you offer to him because he cannot go beyond your offering in his giving. This is not because he limits his giving, but simply because you have limited your receiving. The decision to receive is the decision to **accept**. If your brothers are part of you, will you **accept** them? Only they can teach you what you are, for your learning is the result of what you taught

them. What you call on in them you call on in yourself. As you call it becomes real to you. Each part you **remember** adds to your wholeness because each part is whole. Wholeness is indivisible, but you cannot learn of wholeness until you see it everywhere. When you awake you will know your magnitude by **accepting** limitlessness as yours. But meanwhile you will judge as you judge your brother, and will **accept** it as you **accept** his. You are not yet awake, but you can learn how to **awaken**. Spirit teaches you to **awaken** others. As you see them **waken** you will learn what waking means, and because you have chosen to wake them, their gratitude and their appreciation of what you have given them will teach you its value. They will become the witnesses to your reality, as you were created witnesses to God's. Yet when the Sonship comes together and **accepts** its Oneness it will be known by its creations, who witness to its reality as the Son does to the Father.

Chapter 9 - The Acceptance Of Atonement

§7. The Two Evaluations

You do not have to seek salvation. Every second is a chance to save yourself. Do not lose these chances, as delay of joy is needless. You abide in peace when you so decide. Ego is ever afraid of the obvious. Yet you cannot overlook it unless you do not look. Ego is in mind because you accepted it there. Its evaluation of you is the opposite of Spirit's. Ego is mistrustful of everything because its perceptions are shifting. Ego is therefore capable of suspiciousness at best and viciousness at worst. You have conflicting evaluations of yourself, and they cannot both be true. Ego is particularly likely to attack when you react lovingly, as you are going against its judgment. Ego will attack your motives as soon as they go out of accord with its perception. This is when it will shift from suspiciousness to viciousness. It is pointless to attack in return. You are agreeing with ego's evaluation. If you choose to see yourself as unloving you will not be happy. You are condemning yourself and must therefore regard yourself as inadequate. You cannot evaluate an insane belief system from within it. You can go beyond it, look back from a point where sanity exists and see the contrast. Only by this contrast can insanity be judged as insane. **You have**

chosen to be little. Within the system that dictated this choice lament is inevitable. Lack of knowledge is unwillingness to know. You cannot retain part of a thought system. It can be questioned only at its foundation. Spirit counters ego's thought system because it is not true. When you question your value, say:

God himself is incomplete without me.

Remember this when ego speaks.

Chapter 9 - The Acceptance Of Atonement

§8. Grandeur Versus Grandiosity

Grandeur is in you. Whenever you become aware of it you abandon ego. When this occurs, ego believes that its enemy has struck, and attempts to offer self-inflation as its alternative to grandeur. Grandiosity is always a cover for despair. It is an attempt to counteract littleness. Grandiosity is competitive; it involves attack. It is an attempt to outdo. Ego will sway between suspicious and vicious. It is suspicious as you despair. It goes to vicious when you decide not to tolerate self-abasement. Ego does not know the difference between miracle and alien beliefs. Ego's profound sense of vulnerability renders it incapable except in terms of attack. When ego experiences threat, its decision is whether to attack now or to withdraw and attack later. If you accept its offer of grandiosity it will attack immediately. If you do not, it will wait. Ego is immobilized in the presence of grandeur, because grandeur establishes freedom. Even the hint of your reality drives ego from you as you give up all investment in it. Grandeur is without illusions, and because it is real it is compellingly convincing. The conviction of reality will not remain if you allow ego to attack. Ego will make every effort to mobilize. It will tell you that you are insane, and that grandeur cannot be of you because of littleness. Grandeur is of love. From grandeur you can bless; grandeur is always abundance. By blessing you hold it in your mind. Littleness and grandeur cannot coexist, nor is it possible for them to alternate. Littleness and grandiosity can alternate. Pride will not produce miracles, and will therefore deprive you of the true witnesses to your reality.

Chapter 10 - The Idols Of Sickness

§1. Introduction

Nothing beyond yourself can make you fearful or loving, because nothing is beyond you. Time and eternity are both in your mind, and will conflict until you perceive time solely as a means to regain eternity. You cannot do this if you believe that anything happening to you is caused by factors outside yourself. Time is solely at your disposal, and that nothing in the world can take this responsibility from you. You can violate laws in your imagination, but you cannot escape from them. What can upset you except the temporary, and how can the temporary be real? Your mind establishes everything that happens to you. **Every single response you make to everything is always up to you, because your mind determines perception of it.** Can anything exceed the love of God? Can anything, then, exceed your will? Nothing can reach you from beyond it because, being in God, you encompass all and everything. **Believe this, and you will realize how much is up to you.** When anything threatens your peace of mind, ask yourself, "Has God changed his mind about me?" Then **accept** his decision, for it is indeed changeless, and refuse to change your mind about yourself. God will never decide against you, or he would be deciding against himself.

Chapter 10 - The Idols Of Sickness

§2. At Home In God

You do not know your creations because you decide against them as long as your mind is split. To attack what you created is impossible. But **remember** that it is also impossible for God. The law of creation is that you love your creations as yourself, because they are part of you. Everything that was created is perfectly safe, protected by love. Any part of your mind that does not know this has banished itself from knowledge. Who could have done this but you? **Recognize** this gladly. You are dreaming of exile but capable of **awakening** to reality. Is it your decision to do so? You **recognize** from your own experience that what you see in dreams you think is real while you are asleep. Yet the instant you **awaken** you **realize** that everything

that seemed to happen in the dream did not happen at all. You do not think this strange, even though all the laws of what you **awaken** to were violated while you slept. Is it possible that you shifted from one dream to another, without really waking? Would you bother to reconcile what happened in conflicting dreams, or would you dismiss both together if you discovered that reality is in accord with neither? When you hear Spirit you may feel better because loving then seems possible to you, but you do not remember yet. It is in this **remembering** that you will know it can be so. What is possible has not yet been accomplished. When you **remember**, you will know that what you remember is eternal, and therefore is now. You will remember everything the instant you desire it wholly, for if to desire wholly is to create, you will have willed away separation. You will have no wish to sleep, but only the desire to **awaken** and be glad.

Chapter 10 - The Idols Of Sickness

§3. The Decision To Forget

Unless you first know something you cannot dissociate it. Knowledge must precede dissociation, so that dissociation is nothing more than a decision to forget. What has been forgotten then appears to be fearful, but only because the dissociation is an attack on truth. You have replaced your knowledge with an **awareness** of dreams because you are afraid of dissociation, not of what you have dissociated. To give up the dissociation of reality brings more than merely lack of fear. In this decision lie joy and peace. Offer Spirit only your willingness to **remember**. He retains the knowledge of yourself, waiting for **acceptance**. Give up gladly everything that would stand in the way of your **remembering**, for God is in your memory. Let nothing in this world delay **remembering**, for in **remembering** is the knowledge of yourself. To **remember** is merely to restore to your mind what is already there. You **accept** again what is already there, but was rejected. The ability to **accept** truth in this world is the perceptual counterpart of creating in the Kingdom. Signify your will to **remember**, and behold! Further **recognize** that you are part of God. You want something other than peace of mind, but you have not considered what it must

be. Yet the logical outcome of your decision is perfectly clear, if you will only look at it. By deciding against your reality, you have made yourself **vigilant** against God. It is this **vigilance** that makes you afraid to **remember** him.

Chapter 10 - The Idols Of Sickness

§4. The God Of Sickness

When you attack yourself, you hate what you think you are. This, and only this, can be attacked. What this image makes you do can be destructive. Love cannot attack. The **remembrance** of love brings invulnerability. Do not side with sickness in your brother even if he believes it. Your **recognition** of him reminds him of the truth about himself, which he is denying. Sickness is idolatry, because it is the belief that power can be taken from you. Yet this is impossible. Ego perceives a sick god, vicious and vulnerable. Is this an image you would save? Look calmly at ego's thought system. You attack the divinity of your brothers, and lose sight of yours. Health in this world is the counterpart of value in Heaven. When you do not value yourself you become sick. **Acceptance** of peace is the denial of illusion, and sickness is an illusion. A whole mind does not know conflicting laws. Peace is your inheritance. To honor illusions is to honor nothing. Because of fear you have been willing to give up your own perfect helpfulness and your own perfect help. If you see the god of sickness anywhere, you have accepted him. It has everything to do with reality as you perceive it.

Chapter 10 - The Idols Of Sickness

§5. The End Of Sickness

[The purpose of religion is to end suffering.] Religion is the **recognition** that the irreconcilable cannot be reconciled. Sickness and perfection are irreconcilable. The sickness you made cannot be reconciled. If you attack it, you will make it real to you. Reality can dawn only on an unclouded mind. It is always there to be accepted, but its **acceptance** depends on your willingness. To know reality involves the willingness to judge unreality for what it is. To overlook nothingness is merely to see it correctly, and to let it go. Knowledge cannot dawn on a mind full of illusions, because truth and illusion are irreconcilable. If

your mind is split, it is out of control. To be out of control is to become unreasonable. You have tried to give your peace to the gods you made, but they are not there to take it from you, so you cannot give it to them. You are not free to give up freedom, but only to deny it. What you have made is so unworthy of you that you could hardly want it, if you were willing to see it as it is. Your vision will automatically look beyond it, to what is in you and all around you. Reality cannot break thru the obstructions you interpose, but it will envelop you completely when you let them go. **The power of one mind can shine into another.** It is everywhere and it is eternal. In many only the spark remains, for the Great Rays are obscured. Perceiving the spark will heal, but knowing the light will create. Yet in the little light must be acknowledged first.

Chapter 10 - The Idols Of Sickness

§6. The Denial Of God

You receive the message you give. It is the message you want. You believe you judge your brothers by the messages they give you, but you judged them by the message you give them. Do not attribute your denial of joy to them, or you cannot see the spark in them that would bring joy to you. Sickness seems to enter the body against the will. If creation is sharing, it cannot create unlike itself. It can share only what it is. You have not sinned, but you have been mistaken. **Remember** that if you accept denial, you can **accept** its undoing. Look with peace upon your brothers. Do not look to the god of sickness for healing. You are not sick and you cannot die. You can confuse yourself with things that do. **Remember** that to do this means you are looking without love. You do not **realize** how much you have denied yourself. To know is sanity. Do not deny yourself the joy that was created for you to trade for the misery you have made. It is blasphemous to perceive suffering anywhere. If you **remember** eternity, you will look only on the eternal. If you become preoccupied with the temporal, you are living in time. If you will **accept** only what is timeless as real, you will begin to understand eternity and make it yours.

Chapter 11 - God Or The Ego

§1. Introduction

Either God or ego is insane. Neither God nor ego proposes a partial thought system. Each is internally consistent, but they are diametrically opposed in all respects so that partial allegiance is impossible. **Remember** their results are as different as the foundations; their fundamentally irreconcilable natures cannot be reconciled by vacillations between them. If you made ego, how can ego have made you? Ego is nothing more than a delusional system in which you made your own father. Make no mistake about this. It sounds insane when it is stated with perfect honesty, but ego never looks on what it does with perfect honesty. Yet that is its insane premise, which is carefully hidden in the dark of its thought system. Either ego is your father, or its thought system will not stand. You make by projection; God creates by extension. The cornerstone of creation is you. **Remember** the rays that are there unseen. The more you approach the center of his thought system, the clearer the light becomes. The closer you come to ego's thought system, the darker and more obscure becomes the way. Even the little spark in your mind is enough to lighten it. Bring this light fearlessly with you, and bravely hold it up to the foundation of ego's thought system. Be willing to judge it with perfect honesty. Open the dark cornerstone of terror on which it rests, and bring it out into the light. There you will see that it rested on meaninglessness, and that everything of which you have been afraid was based on nothing. You will not take this journey alone. Will you answer the call of love with joy?

Chapter 11 - God Or The Ego

§2. The Gifts Of Fatherhood

You have learned your need of healing. In this lies the beginning of the return to knowledge. In whatever part of mind you restore reality, you restore it to yourself. You dwell in mind with your brother. To be alone is to be separated from infinity, but how can this be if infinity has no end? No one can be beyond the limitless, because what has no limits must be everywhere. Here are no beginnings or endings. Can you exclude yourself from the

universe? Extension cannot be blocked, and it has no voids. It continues forever, however much it is denied. Your denial of its reality may arrest it in time, but not in eternity. That is why your creations have not ceased to be extended, and why so much is waiting for you. Waiting is possible only in time, but time has no meaning. You who made delay can leave time behind simply by **recognizing** that neither beginnings nor endings were created. You do not know this because you believe that all creation is limited. How could you know your creations, having denied infinity? The laws of the universe do not permit contradiction. The universe of love does not stop because you do not see it, nor have your closed eyes lost the ability to see. Look on the glory of creation. You keep it only by giving it, as it was given you. Love does not limit, and what it creates is not limited. Give without limit and without end. Your ability to **accept** depends on your willingness to give. It cannot be too often repeated that you do not know. If what Spirit tells you appears to be coercive, it is only because you have not **recognized** your will. The projection of ego makes it appear as if will is outside yourself. You cannot be happy unless you do what you will truly, and you cannot change this because it is immutable.

Chapter 11 - God Or The Ego

§3. The Invitation To Healing

If sickness is separation, the decision to be healed is the first step to **recognizing** what you truly want. Every attack is a step away from this, and every healing thought brings it closer. When you attack what you really want is lost to you. Healing becomes a lesson in understanding, and the more you practice the better teacher you become. In every hurtful thought you hold lies denial. Denial is as total as love. You cannot deny part of yourself, because the rest will seem to be separate and therefore have no meaning. Being without meaning to you, you will not understand. To deny meaning is to fail to understand. You can heal only yourself. You need it because you do not understand yourself, and therefore know not what you do. Having forgotten your will, you do not know what you really want. Healing is a sign that you want to make whole. Willingness opens you to the voice of Spirit, whose message is wholeness. **The invitation**

must come from you, for you have learned that who you invite will abide with you. Spirit cannot speak to an unwelcoming host, because he will not be heard. Think like him ever so slightly, and the little spark becomes a blazing light that fills your mind so that he becomes your only guest. Whenever you ask ego to enter, you lessen Spirit's welcome. He will remain, but you have allied yourself against him. Whatever journey you choose to take, he will go with you, waiting. You can safely trust his **patience**, for he cannot leave a part of God. You need far more than **patience**. You will never rest until you know your function and fulfill it. Spirit is here, although it cannot help without your invitation. Real freedom depends on welcoming reality and of your guests only Spirit is real. Do not ever be satisfied with imaginary comfort.

Chapter 11 - God Or The Ego

§4. From Darkness To Light

When you are weary, **remember** you have hurt yourself. Your comforter will rest you, but you cannot. You do not know how, for if you did you would never have grown weary. Unless you hurt yourself you could never suffer. Conflict is the root of evil, and being blind it does not see whom it attacks. **You always attack you.** This will cannot be true of you. When the light comes you will see such beauty that you will know it is not of you. This bleak little world will vanish into nothing, and your heart will fill with joy. You cannot yet know what this will be like, for your heart is not ready. Yours is the way of pain. That way is hard indeed, and very lonely. Fear and grief are your guests, and they go with you and abide with you on the way. The dark journey is not the way. Walk in light and do not see the dark companions, for they are not fit companions for light. The Great Light always surrounds you and shines out from you. How can you see the dark companions in a light such as this? If you see them, it is only because you are denying the light. Deny them instead, for the light is here and the way is clear. When you wander, you undertake a journey that is not real. The dark companions, the dark way, are all illusions. Turn toward the light, for the little spark in you is part of a light so great that it can sweep you out of all darkness forever. Do not be deceived

by the dark comforters, and never let them enter the mind. You cannot understand wholeness unless you are whole. In your mind you can **accept** the whole and bless it with the light. Then you will be worthy to dwell in the temple with him, because it is your will not to be alone. God blessed his Son forever. If you will bless him in time, you will be in eternity. Time cannot separate you from God if you use it on behalf of the eternal.

Chapter 11 - God Or The Ego

§5. The Inheritance Of God's Son

Never forget that you are your salvation. Your self does not need salvation, but your mind needs to learn what salvation is. You are not saved from anything, but you are saved for glory. Glory is your inheritance, given you that you might extend it. If you hate part of your self all your understanding is lost, because you are looking on yourself without love. Would you cut off a brother from the light that is yours? You would not do so if you realized that you can darken only your own mind. As you bring him back, so you will return. This is the law, for the protection of wholeness. Only you can deprive yourself of anything. Do not oppose this realization, for it is truly the beginning of the dawn of light. **Remember** also that the denial of this simple fact takes many forms, and these you must learn to **recognize** and to oppose steadfastly, without exception. This is a crucial step in the re**awakening**. The beginning phases of this reversal are often quite painful, for as blame is withdrawn from without, there is a strong tendency to harbor it within. It is difficult at first to **realize** that this is exactly the same thing, for there is no distinction between within and without. If your brothers are part of you and you blame them for your deprivation, you are blaming yourself. Blame must be undone, not seen elsewhere. Lay it to yourself and you cannot know yourself, for only ego blames at all. Self-blame is ego identification. Come wholly without condemnation, for otherwise you will believe that the door is barred and you cannot enter. Peace be upon you.

Chapter 11 - God Or The Ego

§6. The Dynamics Of The Ego

No one can escape from illusions unless he looks at them. Not looking is the way they are protected. Look closely at ego's thoughts. Look at the dynamics of ego to see beyond it, since you made it real. You are beginning to learn fear is not real. You are learning that effects can be dispelled by denying their reality. Next **recognize** that what has no effect does not exist. Do not be afraid to look on fear, for it cannot be seen. Begin this lesson in ego dynamics by understanding the term itself does not mean anything. 'Dynamic' implies power, and separation lies in the belief that ego has power. When we look at ego, we are not considering dynamics but delusions. Fear becomes more inappropriate if you **recognize** ego's goal. Its purpose is to be independent. It is the symbol of separation. Conflict you experience is between ego and yourself. Do not be deceived by its interpretation. Ego attacks on behalf of separation. Ego is confused about reality. It is more **vigilant** than you, because it is certain of its purpose. How can it continue if you **realize** you deprive yourself? Ego allows you to regard yourself as shallow, callous and desperate, but not afraid. Minimizing fear is ego's constant effort, and is indeed a skill at which it is ingenious. How can it preach separation without upholding it thru fear. By learning what fear is you can finally learn to distinguish the possible from the impossible. Ego's goal has brought you fear. It is difficult to maintain that fear is happiness. Appreciation of wholeness comes only thru **acceptance**. Ego believes that power lies in separation. To establish this it must attack. **Ego will substitute chaos for meaning**. Ego makes every mistake real. Everything you perceive is a witness to the thought system you want to be true. Every brother has the power to release you.

Chapter 11 - God Or The Ego

§7. Waking To Redemption

It is impossible not to believe what you see; it is equally impossible to see what you do not believe. Perceptions are built on the basis of experience, and experience leads to belief. It is not until your beliefs are fixed that perceptions stabilize. What

you believe you do see. Resurrection is triumph over ego, not by attack but by transcendence. Would you condemn your brothers or free them? There has been much confusion about perception, because the word is used to refer to both for **awareness** and for the interpretation of **awareness**. You cannot be aware without interpretation, for what you perceive is your interpretation. If you do not see clearly, it is because you are interpreting against, and so do not believe. Since belief determines perception, you do not perceive and therefore do not **accept**. Let the Christ in you interpret for you, and do not try to limit what you see by narrow little beliefs. **Make no exceptions**, or you will not perceive what has been accomplished for you. The god of crucifixion does demand that he crucify, and his worshippers obey. In his name they crucify themselves, believing that power is born of sacrifice and pain. The freedom you have to leave behind everything that hurts you and frightens you cannot be thrust upon you. **You are asleep**. You who are beginning to **awake** are still aware of dreams, and have not yet forgotten them. You will **awaken** to your own call, for the call to **awake** is within you.

Chapter 11 - God Or The Ego

§8. The Condition Of Reality

The world as you perceive it cannot have been created, for the world is not as you see it. There is another world you do not see. The Bible speaks of a new Heaven and a new earth. This cannot be literally true, for the eternal are not re-created. To perceive anew is merely to perceive again, implying that before, or in the interval between, you did not even perceive at all. What is the world that awaits your perception when you can see it? The loving thoughts your mind perceives in this world are this world's only reality. They are still perceptions, because you still believe you are separate. They are eternal because they are loving. The real world can actually be perceived. All that is necessary is a willingness to perceive nothing else. If you perceive both good and evil, you are accepting both the false and the true and thus making no distinction. Ego may see some good, but it never sees only good. That is why its perceptions are so variable. It does not reject goodness entirely, for that you

could not accept. It always adds something that is not real. Perceptions cannot be partly true. If you believe in truth and illusion, you cannot tell which is true. Perception of goodness is not knowledge. Denial of the opposite of goodness enables you to **recognize** a condition in which opposites do not exist. This is the condition of knowledge. Without this **awareness** you have not met its conditions, and until you do you will not know it is yours already. You have made many ideas, and these beliefs are the world as you perceive it. Truth is not absent here, but it is obscure. To believe that you can perceive the real world is to believe that you can know yourself.

Chapter 11 - God Or The Ego

§9. The Problem And The Answer

This is a very simple course. Perhaps you do not feel you need a course which teaches that only reality is true. Do you really believe it? When you perceive the real world, you **recognize** you did not believe it. The swiftness with which your new and real perception will be translated into knowledge will leave you but an instant to **realize** that this alone is true. Then everything you made will be forgotten; all the good and all the bad, all the false and all the true. The reinterpretation of the world is the transfer of all perception to knowledge. Do not make the mistake of believing that you understand what you perceive, for its meaning is lost to you. You do not know the meaning of anything you perceive. Not one thought you hold is wholly true. The **recognition** of this is your firm beginning. Instruction in false perception is your great need, for you understand nothing. Your willingness to learn depends on your willingness to question everything you learned of yourself, for you who learned amiss should not be your own teacher. You may complain that this course is not specific enough for you to understand and use. **Perhaps you have not done what it specifically advocates.** This is a course in practical application. Do not be deceived in your brother, for denying that his mind is split will heal yours. In the real world there is no sickness, for there is no separation. To love yourself is to heal yourself, and you cannot perceive part of you as sick and achieve your goal. Children perceive ghosts and are terrified. Yet if they ask for the meaning

of what they perceive, and are willing to let their own interpretations go, their fear goes with them. You are afraid of your brothers and of yourself. You are merely deceived in them. Fear lies not in reality, but in the minds of children who do not understand reality.

Chapter 12 - The Holy Spirit's Curriculum

§1. The Judgment Of The Holy Spirit

You have been told not to make error real, and the way to do this is very simple. If you want to believe in error, you would have to make it real because it is not true. To believe in truth you do not have to do anything. You do not respond to anything directly, but to your interpretation of it. Your interpretation becomes justification for response. Analyzing the motives of others is hazardous. If you decide that someone is really trying to attack you, you will respond as if he had actually done so. To interpret error overlooks truth. Analysis of ego is obscuring and always with your own ego involvement. The process represents an attempt to demonstrate your own ability to understand what you perceive. This is shown by the fact that you react to your interpretations as if they are correct. You may then control your reactions behaviorally, but not emotionally. This is an attack on the integrity of your mind, pitting one level against another. Every loving thought is true. Everything else is an appeal for help, regardless of form. Can anyone be justified in responding with anger to a plea for help? No response can be appropriate except the willingness to give. Offer anything else, and you are assuming a right to attack. The danger of this to your own mind is not yet apparent. If you think an appeal for help is something else you will react to something else. **Your response will not be appropriate to reality as it is.** There is nothing to prevent you from **recognizing** all calls for help as exactly what they are except your own imagined need to attack. It is only this that makes you willing to battle with reality. You deny the reality of a need for healing by making it unreal. You would not do this but for your unwillingness to **accept** reality as it is, and which you thereby withhold from yourself. If you are unwilling to perceive an appeal for help, you are unwilling to receive it. This you maintain when you refuse to **recognize** a brother's appeal. Only by answering his appeal can you be helped. Do not attempt to help a brother in your way, for you cannot help yourself. Hear his call, and you **recognize** your own need. Every appeal that you answer brings **remembrance** closer to **awareness**. To **recognize** fear is not enough to escape from it, although **recognition** is necessary to demonstrate the need for escape.

To **recognize** fear and face it without disguise is a crucial step in the undoing of ego. Fear is a call for love, in unconscious **recognition**. Fear is a symptom of your sense of loss. Teach yourself that fear does not exist in you. The means for removing it is in yourself, and you demonstrate this by giving. Fear and love are the only emotions you are capable of. If you would look upon love, how could you do better than to **recognize** the appeal for it? Thus you will learn how to replace your dream of separation with the fact of unity.

Chapter 12 - The Holy Spirit's Curriculum

§2. The Way To Remember God

Miracles are the translation of denial into truth. If to love oneself is to heal oneself, those who are sick do not love themselves. They are asking for the love that would heal them, but which they deny themselves. If they knew the truth about themselves they could not be sick. The task of the miracle worker thus becomes to deny the denial of truth. The sick must heal themselves, for the truth is in them. Having obscured it, the light in another mind must shine into theirs. The light in them shines as brightly regardless of the density of the fog that obscures it. If you give no power to the fog to obscure the light, it has none. It has power only if the Son of God gives power to it. He must himself draw that power, **remembering** that all power is of God. You can **remember** this for all. This is what you have forgotten. Perceiving that the healing of your brother is the same as healing yourself is the way to **remember**. Whatever the sickness, there is but one remedy. You will be made whole as you make whole, for to perceive in sickness the appeal for health is to **recognize** in hatred the call for love. To give a brother what he really wants is to offer it to yourself. Let us not delay this. Learn quiet in the midst of turmoil. Quietness is the end of strife and the journey to peace. Look straight at every image that rises to delay you. **Awake** and **remember** your purpose, for it is your will. You who choose to banish fear will succeed. When we have overcome fear -- not by hiding it and not by denying its import in any way -- this is what you will really see. You cannot lay aside the obstacles to real vision without looking upon them.

Chapter 12 - The Holy Spirit's Curriculum

§3. The Investment In Reality

I asked you to sell all you have and give to the poor and follow me. The poor are those who have invested wrongly! Because they are in need it is given you to help them. Poverty is lack, and there is but one lack since there is but one need. Suppose a brother insists on having you do something you think you do not want to do. His very insistence should tell you that he believes salvation lies in it. If you insist on refusing and experience a quick response of opposition, you believe that your salvation lies in not doing it. You are making the same mistake he is, and are helping make his error real to both of you. Insistence means investment, and what you invest in is always related to your notion of salvation. The question is twofold. First, what is to be saved? Second, how can it be saved? When you become angry with a brother, you believe that ego is to be saved. If he attacks, you are agreeing with this; if you attack, you are reinforcing it. **Remember** that those who attack are without. You who could help are acting destructively if you **accept** their poverty as yours. If you had not invested as they had, it would not occur to you to overlook their need. **Recognize** what does not matter. If your brothers ask you for something outrageous, do it because it does not matter. Refuse, and your opposition establishes it does matter to you. It is you who have made the request outrageous, and every request of a brother is for you. Why would you deny him? To do so will deny yourself and impoverish both. He is asking for salvation, as you are. Salvation is for the mind, and is attained thru peace. Any response other than love arises from a confusion about the what and how of salvation. You will place yourself among the poor, who do not understand they dwell in abundance. To identify with ego is to attack yourself and make yourself poor. So anyone who identifies with ego feels deprived. What he experiences then is depression or anger. He always perceives this world as outside himself. He does not **realize** that he makes this world. There is no world outside of him. A split mind is endangered. The mind projects the split, not the reality. Everything you perceive as the world is your attempt to maintain ego identification. Consider what has happened, for thoughts have consequences to the thinker. You became at odds with the

world, because you think it antagonistic. This is a necessary consequence. You project outward what is antagonistic, and therefore you have to perceive it this way. That is why you must **realize** that your hatred is in your mind and not outside it before you can get rid of it; and why you must get rid of it before you can perceive the world as it really is. The world you made is chaotic and without meaning. It is projected from your mind because you fear it. Yet this world is only in the mind of its maker. Do not believe it is outside of yourself, for only by **recognizing** where it is will you gain control. You have control over your mind, since mind is the mechanism of decision. If you **recognize** that all attack you perceive is in your mind, you have found its source. To find the place, you must relinquish investment in the world you project, allowing Spirit to extend the real world to you.

Chapter 12 - The Holy Spirit's Curriculum

§4. Seeking And Finding

Ego is certain that love is dangerous, and this is its central teaching. Everyone seems to be intensely engaged in the search for love. Ego, encouraging search for love actively, makes one proviso: do not find it. Its dictates can be summed up as: Seek and do not find. This is a promise ego holds out, and one it will keep. Ego pursues its goal with insistence, and its judgment is consistent. The search ego takes is bound to be defeated. Ego cannot love, and its frantic search is seeking what it is afraid to find. The search is inevitable because ego is part of your mind. It is your mind that gives existence to it. It is also mind that has the power to deny ego's existence. It is obvious that no one wants to find what would defeat him. Being unable to love, ego would be totally inadequate in love's presence, for it could not respond at all. Then you would have to abandon ego's guidance, for it would be apparent it had not taught you the response you need. Follow its teaching and you will search for love, but will not **recognize** it. Ego must set you on a journey which cannot but lead to futility. Spirit offers you another promise, one that will lead to joy. This promise is Seek and You Will Find. You will undertake a journey because you are not at home in this world. You will search for your home whether you **realize** where it is or

not. If you believe it is outside you the search will be futile, for you will be seeking where it is not. You do not **remember** to look within. Spirit **remembers** for you, and will guide you home. By guiding your brothers home you are but following Spirit.

Chapter 12 - The Holy Spirit's Curriculum

§5. The Sane Curriculum

Only love is strong because it is undivided. The strong do not attack because they see no need to do so. Before the idea of attack can enter your mind, you must perceive yourself as weak. You attacked yourself and believe the attack was effective, you behold yourself as weakened. No longer perceiving you and your brothers as equal, and seeing yourself as weaker, you attempt to equalize the situation. You use attack to do so because you believe that attack was successful in weakening you. That is why the **recognition** of your own invulnerability is so important to the restoration of sanity. When you **accept** your invulnerability, you **recognize** that attack has no effect. Although you have attacked yourself, you will be demonstrating that nothing happened. So by attacking you have not done anything. Once you **realize** this you will no longer see any sense in attack. If your attacks on yourself have failed to weaken you, you are still strong. You have no need to equalize the situation to establish your strength. You will never **realize** the utter uselessness of attack except by **recognizing** that your attack on yourself has no effects. For others do react to attack if they perceive it, and if you are then trying to attack them you will be unable to avoid interpreting this as reinforcement. **The only place you can cancel all reinforcement is in yourself.** You are always the first point of your attack. You cannot learn of perfect love with a split mind, because it made itself a poor learner. The situation you placed yourself in is impossible, and you require a special Teacher and a special curriculum. Poor learners are not good choices as teachers, for themselves or anyone else. Do not attempt to teach yourself, and do not try to set up goals where yours have failed. Your learning goal has been to not learn. The result of this is obvious. Every legitimate teaching aid, every real instruction, and every guide to learning will be misinterpreted, since they are for facilitating the learning this strange curriculum

is against. This attempt at learning has so weakened your mind that you cannot love, for the curriculum you have chosen is against love, and a course in how to attack yourself. Your mind speaks against you as your learning speaks against your mind, so you fight against learning. Resign now as your own teacher. Under the proper conditions, which you can neither provide nor understand, you will become an excellent learner and teacher. It is not so yet, and will not be so until the whole learning situation you have set up is reversed. Your learning potential, properly understood, is limitless. The curriculum is totally unambiguous. **You need only offer your undivided attention.** Everything else will be given you.

Chapter 12 - The Holy Spirit's Curriculum

§6. The Vision Of Christ

Ego is teaching how to gain the world and lose your soul. Spirit teaches that you cannot lose your soul and there is no gain in the world, for of itself it profits nothing. To invest without profit is surely to impoverish. This investment costs you the world's reality, and gives you nothing in return. You cannot sell your soul, but you can sell **awareness** of it. You will never know your soul while you perceive anything else as more valuable. Spirit is your strength because it knows nothing but spirit as you. **Remember** what you are. The only thing of value is whatever you look on with love. This is the only reality it will ever have. Its value is not in itself, but yours is in you. As self-value comes from self-extension, so does the perception of self-value come from the extension of loving thoughts. Make the world real to yourself. Correction is for all who cannot see. **Remember** the **awakening** begins with investment in the real world. Reality is one, and Spirit blesses the real world. When you have seen this real world, as you surely will, you will **remember**. Learn the cost of sleeping, and refuse to pay. Then will you decide to **awaken**. The real world will spring to sight. As you perceive more common elements in situations, transfer of training under Spirit's guidance becomes generalized. Gradually you learn to apply it to everyone, for its application is universal. What is one cannot be separate, and the denial of the separation is the reinstatement of knowledge.

Chapter 12 - The Holy Spirit's Curriculum

§7. Looking Within

Learning is invisible and is **recognized** only by results. It is demonstrated as you use it. You learn there is no order of difficulty in miracles when you apply them to all situations. There is no situation to which miracles do not apply. By applying them to all situations you gain the real world. In holy perception you will be whole. You cannot see the invisible. By perceiving what it does, you **recognize** it. You cannot see your strengths, but gain confidence in their existence as they enable you to act. You can see the results of your actions. Spirit is invisible, but you can see the results of presence. What you cannot see becomes real thru witnesses that speak for it. You can be aware of what you cannot see, and it can become real to you as Presence becomes manifest thru you. Do Spirit's work, for you share in function. As long as you believe that you have other functions, you need correction. This belief is destruction of peace. You see what you expect. Your perception is the result of invitation. You believe in what you manifest. **Remember** always that you see what you seek. Ego does not find love, for love is not what it seeks. Seeking and finding are the same, and if you seek two goals you find them, but recognize neither. You think they are the same because you want both of them. As you look in, you choose the guide for seeing. When you want only love you will see nothing else. You have looked upon your mind and accepted opposition there, having sought it there. Do not believe that witnesses for opposition are true, for they attest only to your decision about reality. Love is **recognized** by its messengers. If you make love manifest, its messengers come because you invite them. The power of decision is your one remaining freedom as a prisoner of this world. You cannot really give anything but love to anyone or anything, nor can you really receive anything but love from them. When you have **accepted** your mission to extend peace you will find peace, for by making it manifest you will see it. Its holy witnesses will surround you because you called upon them, and they come to you. **As you decide so you will see.** As you manifest you will see it both without and within. Everything you behold without is a judgment of what you beheld within. If it is judgment it will be wrong. **Remember** that when you look out

and react unfavorably you judge yourself unworthy and condemned yourself. The death penalty is ego's ultimate goal, for it fully believes that you are a criminal, as deserving of death as God knows you are deserving of life. The death penalty never leaves ego, for that is what it always reserves for you in the end. Wanting to kill you as the final expression of its feeling for you, it lets you live but to await death. It will torment you while you live, but its hatred is not satisfied until you die. For your destruction is the one end toward which it works, and the only end with which it will be satisfied.

Chapter 12 - The Holy Spirit's Curriculum

§8. The Attraction Of Love For Love

You attack the real world every hour and every minute, and yet you are surprised that you cannot see it. If you seek love in order to attack it, you will never find it. If love is sharing, how can you find it except thru itself? Offer it and it will come to you, because it is drawn to itself. Offer attack and love will remain hidden, for it can live only in peace. When you made what is not true visible, what is true became invisible. Yet it cannot be invisible in itself, for Spirit sees it with perfect clarity. It is invisible to you because you are looking at something else. You can see what Spirit sees. **Remember** you have condemned yourself to oblivion. A Voice will answer every question you ask, and a vision will correct the perception of everything you see. What you have made invisible is the only truth, and what you have not heard is the only answer. Memory can dawn only in a mind that chooses to **remember**. **Everything you made has never been.** You have made invisible the only truth that this world holds. Valuing nothing, you have sought nothing. By making nothing real to you, you have seen nothing. It is not there. You looked upon the unreal and found despair. By seeking the unreal, what else could you find? The unreal world is a thing of despair. As you look upon it you will **remember**. Nothingness will become invisible, for you will at last have seen truly.

Chapter 13 - The Guiltless World

§1. Introduction

If you did not feel guilty you could not attack, for condemnation is the root of attack. It is judgment of one mind by another as unworthy of love. Herein lays the split. **A mind that judges perceives itself as separate from the mind being judged.** All this is but the attempt of the mind to deny itself. It is guilt that has driven you insane. The world you see is the delusional system of those made mad by guilt. Look carefully at this world. This world is punishment, and the laws that govern are the laws of death. Children are born into it thru pain. Their growth is attended by suffering, and they learn of sorrow and separation and death. Their minds seem to be trapped in their brain, and its powers to decline if their bodies are hurt. They seem to love, yet they are deserted. They appear to lose what they love, perhaps the most insane belief of all. Their bodies wither and gasp and are laid in the ground. Only a world of guilt demands this. Adam's sin could have touched no one, had he not believed it was the Father who drove him out of Paradise. For in that belief knowledge was lost. This world is a picture of crucifixion. Until you **realize** that God's Son cannot be crucified, this is the world you will see. You will not **realize** this until you **accept** the eternal fact that God's Son is not guilty. He deserves only love because he has only love. He cannot be condemned because he cannot condemn. Atonement is the final lesson he need learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation.

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§2. Guiltlessness & Invulnerability

Spirit shares the goal of all teachers, whose aim is to make themselves unnecessary. Spirit seeks to remove all guilt from the mind so he may **remember** in peace. Love and guilt cannot coexist, and to accept one is to deny the other. Without guilt ego has no life. As you look upon yourself and judge what you do honestly, you may be tempted to wonder how you can be guiltless. You are guiltless in eternity. You have sinned in the past, but there is no past. Always has no direction. Time seems

to go in one direction, but when you reach its end it will roll up like a carpet spread along the past behind you, and disappear. The journey will seem cruel and senseless. The journey is useless indeed. Spirit stands at the end of time, where you must be because it is with you. Deny your world and judge not. As you perceive the holy companions who travel with you, you **realize** there is no journey, but only an **awakening**. You are invulnerable because you are guiltless. You can hold on to the past only thru guilt. Guilt establishes that you be punished for what you have done, proceeding from past to future. Guilt holds past and future in mind and this ensures ego's continuity. You cannot dispel guilt by making it real and then atoning. That is ego's plan. Ego believes in atonement thru attack, being fully committed to the notion that attack is salvation. You who cherish guilt must believe it, for how else but by identifying with ego could you hold dear what you do not want? In ego's teaching there is no escape from guilt. Attack makes guilt real. If it is real there is no way to overcome it. Spirit dispels it simply thru the calm **recognition** that it has never been.

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§3. The Guiltless Son Of God

The purpose of projection is to get rid of guilt. Ego attempts to get rid of guilt from its view. As ego wants to retain guilt, you find it intolerable, since guilt is in the way of **remembering**. On this issue the deepest split occurs. Consider how strange ego's arrangement is. You project guilt to get rid of it, but you are actually concealing it. You do experience guilt, but you have no idea why. Darkness holds your belief in guilt from **awareness**. You do not even suspect this insane idea lies there. To ego, the guiltless are guilty. Those who do not attack are also enemies. While ego can withstand raising all else to question, it guards this one secret with its life, for its existence depends on keeping this secret. It is this secret that we must look upon, for ego cannot protect you against truth, and in its presence ego is dispelled. You have not admitted to this terrible secret because you would still wish to crucify him if you could find him. This course has explicitly stated that its goal for you is happiness and peace. Yet you are afraid of it. You have been told again and

again that it will set you free, yet you react as if it is trying to imprison you. You dismiss it more readily than you dismiss ego's system. To some extent you must believe that by not learning the course you are protecting yourself. You do not **realize** that it is only your guiltlessness that can protect you. You have **recognized** the futility of ego, but though you do not want it, you may not yet look on the alternative with gladness. In the extreme, you are afraid of redemption and you believe it will kill you. Make no mistake about the depth of this fear. Your guilt is nothing, and if you bring it to the light, the light will dispel it.

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§4. The Fear Of Redemption

You wonder why it is crucial that you look upon your hatred and **realize** its extent. You may think that it would be easy for Spirit to show it to you, and to dispel it without the need to raise it to **awareness** yourself. There is one more obstacle you interposed. No one will countenance fear if he **recognizes** it. In your disordered state you are not afraid of fear. You do not like it, but it is not desire to attack that frightens you. You are not disturbed by your hostility. You will keep it hidden because you are afraid of what it covers up. You could look upon ego's darkest cornerstone without fear if you did not believe that, without ego, you would find within yourself something you fear even more. Deeper than ego's foundation, and stronger than it will ever be, is your intense love. This is what you want to hide. Is it not harder for you to say I love than I hate? You associate love with weakness and hatred with strength. You could not control your joy to the call of love if you heard it, and the world you thought you made would vanish. You can accept insanity because you made it, but you cannot **accept** love because you did not. Perceiving it you will welcome it, and it will be yours. For grandeur is the right of God's Son. No illusions can save him from what he is. Only his love is real, and he will be content only with his reality. Save him from his illusions that you may **accept** the magnitude of your Father in peace and joy. **Exempt no one from love** or you hide a dark place where Spirit is not welcome. You exempt yourself from healing. Seek and you will find, for Love is in you and will lead you.

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§5. The Function Of Time

Ego teaches your function on earth is destruction. Hell is a sick ideas just made up. You are bent on demonstrating its reality. If reality is questioned, you believe that yours is. You believe that attack is your reality. You do not question this yet. You could heal and be healed if you question it. You have been as selective in your questioning as in your perception. An open mind is more honest than this. Ego has a strange notion of time, and it is with this your questioning could begin. Ego invests heavily in the past, and believes the past is the only time that is meaningful.

Remember its emphasis on guilt enables it to ensure its continuity by making the future like the past, and avoiding the present. The past becomes determiner of the future, without any present. 'Be here now' has no meaning to ego. The present merely reminds it of past hurts, and it reacts to the present as if it were the past. Ego dictates your reactions to those you meet.

If you follow ego's dictates you will react to your brother as though he were someone else. You deny yourself the message of release that every brother offers you now. Unless you learn that past pain is an illusion, you are choosing a future of illusions and losing the many opportunities you could find for release. Ego preserves your nightmares and prevents you from **awakening**. Spirit teaches that you always meet yourself, and the encounter is holy because you are. Ego teaches that you always encounter your past, and the present is without meaning. Spirit's perception of time is the exact opposite of ego's. Only NOW is here. Only now presents opportunities for holy encounters where salvation is found. Healing is accomplished in the past. It must happen in the present to release the future.

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§6. The Two Emotions

You have two emotions, love and fear. They are made of sights that are not seen, and sounds that are not heard. They make a private world that cannot be shared. They are meaningful only to their maker, so they have no meaning. It is thru strange and shadowy figures that the insane relate to an insane world. Projection makes perception, and you cannot see beyond it.

Again and again you have attacked your brother, because you saw in him a shadow figure in your private world. **Thus you must attack yourself first, for what you attack is not in others.** Its only reality is in your mind, and by attacking others you are attacking what is not there. The delusional can be very destructive; they do not **recognize** they have condemned themselves. What is within they do not see. You have two emotions, yet in your private world you react to each as though it were the other. Love cannot abide in a world apart where it is not recognized. Everyone recoils from what he fears. You react with fear to love, and draw away. Your private world is filled with figures of fear you invited in. As you look with open eyes, it must occur that you have withdrawn into insanity. You see what is not there. Your manifestations are the opposite of these emotions. You communicate with no one, are isolated from reality and alone in the universe. You who know not what you do can learn what insanity is, and look beyond it. Come forth from your private world in peace. You will see all you denied in your brothers because you deny it in yourself. From denying vision it does not mean you cannot see. This is what denial does; you accept insanity, believing you can rule your perception. You have but two emotions. Each is a way of seeing. With this vision the beauty of the world to shine on them.

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§7. Finding The Present

To perceive truly is to be aware of all reality thru the **awareness** of your own. For this no illusions can rise to your sight, for reality leaves no room for error. Past has no reality in the present. You cannot see it. In questioning your illusions, ask if it is really sane to perceive what was as being here now. If you **remember** the past as you look upon your brother, you will be unable to perceive the reality that is here now. You consider it natural to use past experience as the reference point from which to judge the present. This is unnatural because it is delusional. When you have learned to look on everyone with no reference at all to the past, either his or yours, you will be able to learn from what you see now. To be born again is to let the past go, and look without condemnation on the present. Time

can release as well as imprison. Past, present and future are not continuous, unless you force continuity on them. By doing so you are aligning past and future, and not allowing the miracle, which frees you to be born again. The miracle enables you to see your brother without his past. His errors are past, and by perceiving him without them you are releasing him. You share in this release. Truth lies only in the present, and you will find it if you seek it there. Your past was made in anger, and if you use it to attack the present, you will not see the freedom that the present holds. Judgment and condemnation are behind you, and unless you bring them with you, you will see that you are free of them. Look lovingly upon the present, for it holds the only things that are forever true. The present will be when time is no more. In it all things are eternal, and they are one. Only the past can separate, and it is nowhere. The present offers your brothers the light that unites you with them, and frees you from the past.

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§8. Attainment Of The Real World

Sit quietly and look on the world, and tell yourself: "The real world is not like this. It has no buildings and there are no streets where people walk separate. There are no stores where people buy things they do not need. There is no day that brightens and grows dim. There is no loss." The world you see must be denied, as sight of it is costing you a better kind of vision. You cannot see both worlds, for each involves a different kind of seeing. It depends on what you cherish. The sight of one is possible because you deny the other. The world you see has disappointed since time began. The roads led nowhere. Nothing you made has but the mark of death on it. Hold it not dear, for it is old and tired even as you made it. This false aching world has not the power to touch the living world at all. The real world has the power to touch you even here. What you call with love will come to you. Love always answers, being unable to deny a call for help. All you need to give this world away, in glad exchange for what you did not make, is willingness to learn the one you made is false. **You have been wrong about the world because you judged yourself.** From such a twisted reference, what could you see? All seeing starts with the perceiver, who

judges what is true and false. What he judges false he does not see. You who would judge reality cannot see it, for whenever judgment enters the reality has slipped away. The out of mind is out of sight, because what is denied is there but not **recognized**. Love waits not on time and the real world is your welcome of what always was. The call of joy is in it, and your response is **awakening** to what you have not lost.

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§9. From Perception To Knowledge

All healing is release from the past. The past does not exist, a fact which belongs to the sphere of knowledge, and which therefore no one in the world can know. It would indeed be impossible to be in the world with this knowledge. The mind that knows this knows also it dwells in eternity, and utilizes no perception. It therefore does not consider where it is, because the concept 'where' does not mean anything. It knows it is everywhere, just as it has everything. The real difference between perception and knowledge becomes apparent if you consider this: There is nothing partial about knowledge. No aspect is separate. You are an aspect of knowledge. All knowledge must be yours, for in you is all knowledge. The separation has not interrupted it. Creation cannot be interrupted. The separation is merely a faulty formulation of reality, with no effect. Aspects of reality can still be seen, and they will replace aspects of unreality. Aspects of reality can be seen in everything and everywhere. The miracle of creation is that it is one forever. Every miracle you offer is but the true perception of one aspect of the whole. Though every aspect is the whole, you cannot know this until you see that every aspect is the same, perceived in the same light and therefore one. Everyone seen without the past brings you nearer to the end of time by bringing healing sight into the darkness, and enabling the world to see. There is one miracle, as there is one reality. Every miracle you do contains them all, as every aspect of reality you see blends quietly into one reality. When you have seen your brothers as yourself you will be released to knowledge, having learned to free yourself thru him who knows of freedom. The holy light, in every miracle you offer to your brothers, will be returned to you.

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§10. The Cloud Of Guilt

The guilty always condemn, linking the future to the past. Fidelity to this law lets no light in and forbids **awakening**. Ego's laws are strict, and those who follow them believe that they are guilty, and so they must condemn. Release from guilt is ego's whole undoing. Faith in ego is pain. Faith can be rewarded only in terms of belief. Faith makes the power of belief, and where it is invested determines its reward. The world can give you only what you gave it, being nothing but your projection. If you place faith in the past, the future will be like it. Guilt is as true for you as innocence. When you condemn a brother you deny his freedom. Lay not guilt upon him, for his guilt lies in his secret thought that he has done this to you. Would you teach him he is right in this delusion? Sin and condemnation are the same, and the belief in one is faith in the other. See no one as guilty, and you will affirm guiltlessness in yourself. Every condemnation you offer is the conviction of your own guilt. **Remember** that it is impossible to condemn in part. Guilt is always in your mind, which has condemned itself. **Project it not, for while you do so, it cannot be undone.** Guilt makes you blind, for while you see one spot of guilt in you, you will not see light. By projecting the world seems dark, and shrouded in guilt. You throw a veil over it, and cannot see it because you do not look within. Do not be afraid to look within. Instead, you look upon your brothers and see guilt in them. This you cannot do without remaining blind. Those who see their brothers in the dark are too afraid to look upon the light within.

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§11. Release From Guilt

You are used to the notion that the mind can see the source of pain where it is not. Displacement is always maintained by the illusion that guilt is true. You look on all sources, provided they are not the deep source to which they bear no relation at all. Insane ideas have no real relationships; that is why they are insane. No real relationship can rest on guilt. What strange relationships you made for this strange purpose! You forgot that all real relationships are holy, and cannot be used by you at all.

They are used only by Spirit, and it is what makes them pure. In any union with a brother in which you seek to lay your guilt on him, or share it with him or perceive his, you will feel guilty. Nor will you find satisfaction and peace, because your union with him is not real. You see guilt because you put it there. Those who suffer guilt attempt to displace it. Yet though they suffer, they will not look within and let it go. Their concern is to perceive the source of guilt outside. When you maintain that you are guilty but the source of your guilt lies in the past, you are not looking inward. The past is not in you. Your weird association to it has no meaning in the present. You wanted not salvation in the past. Would you impose your idle wishes on the present, and hope to find salvation now? Determine to be not as you were. A minute, even less, will be enough to free you from the past. As long as you believe that guilt is justified in any way, in anyone, whatever he may do, you will not look within. The end of guilt will never come as long as you believe there is a reason for it. For you must learn that guilt is always totally insane. Give no reality to guilt, and see no reason for it. The Now is given you to heal and teach, to make what will be Now. The moment that you **realize** guilt is insane, wholly unjustified and wholly without reason, you will not fear to look upon Atonement and **accept** it wholly. Fear not to look upon the truth in you. Look thru the cloud of guilt that dims vision, and look past darkness to the holy place where you will see the light. There is no other way for you to look within and see the light of love. There is no fear in love, for love is guiltless. This is reason, which Spirit would restore to you. He would remove only illusions. All else he would have you see. In Christ's vision he would show you the perfect purity that is forever within God's Son. You cannot enter into real relationships with any of God's Sons unless you love them all equally. Love is not special. Until you **recognize** this as true, you will have no idea what love is like. No one who condemns a brother can see himself as guiltless and in peace. If he is guiltless and in peace and sees it not, he is delusional, and has not looked upon himself. Look upon purity and be still. In quiet look upon holiness. Alone we are all lowly; together we shine with brightness so intense that none of us alone can even think of it. Every reaction you experience will be so purified that it is fitting as a hymn of praise.

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§12. The Peace Of Heaven

Forgetfulness and sleep are ego's best advice for dealing with the harsh intrusion of guilt. No one sees himself in conflict and ravaged by war unless he believes that opponents are real. Believing this he must escape, for such a war would surely end his peace of mind. If he could but **realize** the war is between real and unreal powers, he could look upon himself and see freedom. The war is gone. You have heard the hymn of freedom. You made not war that endangers freedom. Nothing destructive will ever be. Guilt and the past are gone into the unreality from which they came. Everything is clear and bright, and calls forth one response. There is no darkness and there is no contrast. There is no variation. There is no interruption. There is a sense of peace so deep that no dream has ever brought even a dim imagining of what it is. Nothing in this world can give this peace, for nothing in this world is wholly shared. Perfect perception can merely show you what is capable of being wholly shared. Spirit points quietly to the contrast. You have need of contrast only here. Contrast and differences are teaching aids, for by them you learn what to avoid and what to seek. When you have learned this, you will find the answer that makes the need for difference disappear. Truth comes of its own unto its own. You will need no contrast to help you **realize** this is what you want. Your wildest misperceptions, your weird imaginings, your blackest nightmares all mean nothing. You will be released, and you will not **remember** anything you made that was not created for you and by you in return. How can you **remember** what was never true, or not **remember** what has always been? It is this reconciliation with truth, and only truth, in which the peace of Heaven lies.

Chapter 14 - Teaching For Truth

§1. Introduction

Yes, you are blessed indeed.

Yet in this world you do not know it. You have the means for learning it and seeing it quite clearly. Spirit uses logic as easily and as well as does ego, except that Spirit's conclusions are not insane. They take a direction exactly opposite, pointing as clearly to Heaven as ego points to darkness and to death. We have followed much of ego's logic, and have seen its logical conclusions. Having seen them, we have realized that they cannot be seen except in illusions, for there alone their seeming clearness seems to be clearly seen.

Let us now turn away from illusions, and follow the simple logic by which Spirit teaches the simple conclusions that speak for truth, and only truth.

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§2. The Conditions Of Learning

If you are blessed and do not know it, you need to learn it must be so. This is not taught, but conditions must be acquired. You can learn to bless. If you offer blessing, it must come first to yourself. If what you offer is complete forgiveness you must have let guilt go and learned you are guiltless. You will perceive this if you **realize** that to deny is a decision to not know. The logic of the world must therefore lead to nothing. If you decide to have and give nothing except a dream, you must direct your thoughts unto oblivion. If you have and give and are everything, all this has been denied. Your thought system is closed off and wholly separated from the truth. This is an insane world, and do not underestimate the extent of its insanity. There is no area of your perception it has not touched. Seeing is always outward. **If your thoughts are wholly of you, the thought system you make is forever dark.** There is nothing in the world to teach that the logic of the world is totally insane and leads to nothing. In him who made this insane logic there is One Who knows it leads to nothing. Any direction that would lead you where Spirit leads you not goes nowhere. Undoing is indirect, as doing is.

You have set the task of sharing what cannot be shared. While you think it possible to learn to do this, you will not believe all that is possible to learn. Spirit begins teaching by showing you what you can never learn. You cannot undo what you have made. It deceives you; you chose to deceive yourself.

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§3. The Happy Learner

You who are devoted to misery must **recognize** that you are miserable. Spirit cannot teach without this, for you believe that misery is happiness. The foundation on which this learning depends means absolutely nothing. Have faith in nothing and you will find the treasure you seek. You believe that nothing is of value. If you value a thing made of nothing, you believe that nothing can be precious. You learn how to make the untrue true. The fundamental teaching is that truth is true. This is the hardest lesson you learn. Consider the distortions you made of nothing; all the strange forms and feelings and reactions that you have woven out of it. The contrast between what is true and what is not is apparent, yet you do not see it. Your faith in nothing is deceiving you. As it shines your brothers see it, and realizing that this light is not what you have made, they see in you more than you see. You will see it with them. As you taught gladness and release, they become teachers in gladness. The happy learner meets the conditions of learning here. For truth is true. What else could ever be?

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§4. The Decision For Guiltlessness

The happy learner cannot feel guilty about learning. This is essential to learning and should never be forgotten. This entails **recognition** that guilt is interference and serves no function at all. You are whole only in your guiltlessness, and only in guiltlessness can you be happy. To wish for guilt in any way or form will lose your guiltlessness, and push it from sight. When the pain of guilt seems to attract you, **remember** that if you yield to it, you decide against happiness, and will not learn. Each second, you are deciding between ego and Spirit. Ego is a choice for guilt; Spirit for guiltlessness. **The decision is all yours.**

What you decide between is fixed, because there are no alternatives to truth or illusion. There is no overlap, because they are opposites. You are unhappy or happy. Everyone you offer healing to returns it. Everyone you attack cherishes it by holding it against you. Guiltlessness is invulnerability. Teach that, whatever he may try to do to you, your freedom from the belief that you can be harmed shows him he is guiltless. There is nothing to forgive. **Remember** always that mind is one, and cause is one. When you choose to make decisions for yourself you are thinking destructively, and the decision will be wrong. It is not true that you can make decisions by yourself or for yourself alone. No thought can be isolated in effects. Every decision is for the whole, directed in and out, and influencing a constellation larger than anything you ever dreamed of. Make no decisions, but ask Spirit everything.

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§5. Your Function In The Atonement

When you **accept** a brother's guiltlessness you will see the Atonement. By proclaiming it in him you make it yours. You will not see your brother's guiltlessness shining if you believe it is not there. Grant it to him, and you see the truth of what you acknowledged. Truth is offered first to be received. The state of guiltlessness is the condition in which what is not there has been removed from the disordered mind that thought it was. **This state, and only this, must you attain.** Until you do, you will think you are separate. You can perhaps feel presence next to you, but cannot know you are one. This cannot be taught. Learning applies only to the condition in which it happens of itself. Ask not that you be forgiven, for this has already been accomplished. **Ask to learn how to forgive, and restore your unforgiving mind.** Atonement becomes visible to those who use it. On earth this is your only function, and you must learn that it is all you want to learn. You will feel guilty till you learn this. There is no effort, and you will be led as gently as if you were being carried down a quiet path in summer. Only your own volition seems to make the decision hard. Spirit will not delay in answering every question of what to do. You can bring your guilt into sleeping, but not into reality.

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§6. The Circle Of Atonement

The only part of your mind that has reality is the part that links you with God. Would you deny his yearning to be known? You yearn for him, and he for you. **Accept** the eternal immutable. Leave the world of death behind you. There is nothing of value here, and everything of value there. Listen to Spirit. It speaks of you to you. There is no guilt in you. Everyone has a special part in the Atonement, but the message given to each one is always the same. Until he teaches it and learns it, he will suffer the dim **awareness** that his function remains unfulfilled. The burden of guilt is heavy. His plan for your awaking is forever as perfect as yours is fallible. You know not what you do, but he who knows is with you. He would teach you nothing except how to be happy. Creation is the natural extension of perfect purity. Your only calling now is to devote yourself, with active willingness, to the denial of guilt in all its forms. To accuse is to not understand. Happy learners of Atonement become teachers of innocence. Bring innocence to light, in answer to the call of the Atonement. Never allow purity to remain hidden, but shine away the heavy veils of guilt within. We are all joined in the Atonement here, and nothing else can unite us. So the world of separation will slip away and full communication restored. Miracle acknowledges the guiltlessness that must have been denied to produce the need of healing. Do not withhold this acknowledgment, for release from suffering of every kind lie in it. Who does not wish to be free of pain? Those who have failed to learn need teaching, not attack. Teachers There is no unity of learning goals apart from this. There is no conflict in this curriculum, which has one aim however taught. Every effort on its behalf is offered for the single purpose of release from guilt. There is no pain or fear that this teaching can fail to overcome. No one can be untouched by teaching such as this. You will not be exempt from the effects of this most holy lesson. From everyone whom you accord release from guilt you will learn your innocence. The circle of Atonement has no end. You find increasing confidence of your inclusion in the circle with all you bring within its perfect peace. Peace is unto everyone who becomes a teacher of peace. Joy is its unifying attribute, with no one left outside to suffer alone. Spirit

sees only guiltlessness, and in gentleness would release from fear and establish a reign of love. Each one you will place within the holy circle or leave outside, judging him fit for redemption or crucifixion. If you bring him into the circle, you will rest there with him. If you leave him out, you join him there. Cast no one out, for what he seeks with you is here. Let us join in the holy place of peace, united as one within the cause of peace.

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§7. The Light Of Communication

It is only in darkness and in ignorance that you perceive the frightening, and shrink away to further darkness. It is only the hidden that can terrify you. The obscure is frightening because you do not understand its meaning. If you did, it would be clear and you would be no longer in the dark. Nothing has hidden value, for what is hidden cannot be shared. The hidden is kept apart. Value lies in joint appreciation. What is concealed cannot be loved, so must be feared. Attack will always yield to love if brought to love. What is kept apart from love cannot share its healing power, as it has been kept in darkness. Without obscurity only the light of love remains, for only this has meaning and lives in light. The light of guiltlessness shines guilt away. The truth of one makes the falsity of its sick opposite clear. You who speak in dark symbols do not understand the language that you have made. It has no meaning, for its purpose is not communication, but disruption. If the purpose of language is communication, can this tongue mean anything? Even this strange and twisted effort to communicate thru not communicating holds enough love to make it meaningful if its Interpreter is not its maker. You who made it are but expressing conflict, from which Spirit would release you. Leave what you would communicate to it. **You know not what you say, and know not what is said to you.** Your Interpreter will never attempt to communicate anything meaningless. He will separate out all that has meaning, dropping the rest and offering your true communication to those who communicate truly with you. You speak two languages. If one means nothing and the other everything, the other but interferes.

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§8. Sharing Perception With Holy Spirit

What do you want? Knowledge or ignorance is yours, but not both. Their separation is in your mind. Perception is the medium by which ignorance is brought to knowledge. The perception must be without deceit, or otherwise it becomes a messenger of ignorance. The search for truth is the honest searching out of all that interferes with truth. Truth can neither be lost nor found. It is there, wherever you are. It can be **recognized** or unrecognized. If you hide it, it becomes unreal because you surround it with fear. By hiding truth in fear, the more you look the less you see it. It is not possible to convince the unknowing. Uncertainty brought to certainty never retains any conviction of reality. Bring what is undesirable to the desirable. Salvation must come to you this way. Consider what dissociation is. It is a distorted process of thinking where two systems which cannot coexist are both maintained. If they are brought together, their acceptance becomes impossible. If one is kept in darkness from the other, separation keeps them both alive and equal. The joining is the source of fear. If they meet, acceptance must be withdrawn from one. You cannot have both, for each denies the other. What needs no protection does not defend itself. Defense is of your making. Defenses, like everything you made, must be gently translated by Spirit. **You cannot see alone.** It is **recognition** that nothing you see means anything alone. Seeing with Spirit will show you that all meaning, including yours, comes not from double vision, but from the gentle fusing of everything into one meaning, one emotion and one purpose.

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§9. The Holy Meeting Place

In darkness you have obscured glory. This lies hidden in dark places, shrouded in guilt and denial of innocence. Behind the doors you closed lies nothing. It is closing the doors that interfere with **recognition** of the power in you. Banish not power from your mind, but let all that would hide your glory be brought to Spirit, and there undone. Whom he would save for glory is saved for it. He promised that thru him you would be released from littleness to glory. Everything that promises

otherwise, great or small, however much or little valued, he will replace with one promise. Can you offer guilt to God? You cannot, then, offer it to his Son. For they are not apart, and gifts to one are offered to the other. You know not God because you know not this. Yet you do know God and also this. All this is safe within you, where Spirit shines. He shines not in division, but in the meeting place where God, united with his Son, speaks thru him. Communication between what cannot be divided can never cease. Interference in communication is quite impossible here. Unbroken and uninterrupted love flows constantly. Let your mind wander not thru dark corridors, away from light's center. You choose to lead yourself astray, but you can be brought together only by the Guide. Unite with what you are. You cannot join with anything except reality. Truth will make this plain to you as you are brought into the place where you must meet with truth. You must be led, by gentle understanding that can lead you nowhere else. Where God is, there you are.

Chapter 14 - Teaching For Truth

§10. The Reflection Of Holiness

The Atonement does not make holy. You were created holy. It merely brings unholiness to holiness; or what you made to what you are. Bringing illusion to truth is Spirit's only function. Keep not your making, for hiding has cost you knowledge of yourself. Knowledge is safe. Where is your safety apart from it? The making of time to take the place of timelessness lay in the decision to be not as you are. The present was dedicated to illusion. The past was interposed between what always was and now. The past that you **remember** never was, and represents only denial of what was. Bringing ego to Spirit is to bring error to truth, where it stands corrected because it is the opposite of what it meets. It is undone because the contradictions can no longer stand. How long can it stand when its impossible nature is clearly revealed? What disappears in light is not attacked, it merely vanishes. Different realities are meaningless, for reality is one. It cannot change with time or mood. Its changelessness is what makes it real. This cannot be undone. This reality will do for you. Merely by being what it is, truth releases you from everything it is not. Reflections are seen in light. In darkness

they are obscure, and meaning seems to lie only in shifting interpretations. The image of holiness that shines in you is not obscure, and will not change. Its meaning to those who look on it is not obscure, for everyone perceives it as the same. All bring different problems to its healing light, and all problems find healing. The response of holiness is always the same. There is no contradiction in what holiness calls forth.

Chapter 14 - Teaching For Truth

§11. The Equality Of Miracles

The reflections you accept into the mirror of your mind in time but bring eternity nearer or farther. But eternity itself is beyond all time. Reach out of time and touch it, with the help of its reflection in you. You will turn from time to holiness, as surely as the reflection of holiness calls everyone to lay guilt aside. Reflect peace here, and bring this world to peace. The reflection of truth draws everyone, and as they enter they leave reflections behind. You have no conception of limitlessness, for the world you seem to live in is one of limits. The miracle is the one thing you can do that transcends order, being based not on differences but on equality. Miracles are not in competition, and the number of them that you can do is limitless. They can be simultaneous and legion. This is not difficult to understand, once you conceive of them as possible at all. What is more difficult to grasp is the lack of order of difficulty that stamps the miracle as coming from elsewhere. You are used to classifying some thoughts as more important than others. This is true of the thoughts of those who think they live apart. The result is a changing pattern that never rests and is never still. It shifts unceasingly across your mind. The sanity that remains is held together by an order that you alone establish. The very fact that you can do this, and bring any order into chaos shows that you are not an ego and that more than an ego must be in you. Ego is chaos, and if it were you, no order would be possible. **The order you impose limits you.** To order is to judge. Spirit teaches by giving you examples to show you that your ordering is wrong, but a better way is offered. The miracle offers exactly the same response to every call for help. It does not judge, it merely answers accordingly. Being always maximal, it offers everything to every call from

anyone. A call for help is given help. You are bound to form, and not to content. What you consider content is not content at all. It is merely form, and nothing else. You do not respond to what a brother really offers you, but only to the perception of offering, by which ego judges. Ego is incapable of understanding content, and is unconcerned with it. To ego, if form is acceptable, content must be. Ego enjoys studying itself, and approves of students who would analyze it, proving its importance. They study form with meaningless content. The teacher is senseless, but carefully conceals this behind impressive words. So separation remains ego's condition. No one alone can judge ego truly. When two or more join together in searching for truth, ego can no longer defend its lack of content. The fact of union tells them it is not true. It is impossible to **remember** in secret and alone. Take no thought for yourself, for no thought you hold is for yourself. **If you search together, you bring a light so powerful that what you see is given meaning.** The lonely journey fails because it has excluded what it would find. Every interpretation you lay upon a brother is senseless. Where there is a call for love, you must give it because of what you are.

Chapter 14 - Teaching For Truth

§12. The Test Of Truth

An essential thing is learning that you do not know yet. You who have tried to keep power for yourself have lost access to it. You still have the power, but you placed so much between it and your **awareness** that you cannot use it. Everything you have taught yourself has made your power more and more obscure. You made a show of strength so pitiful that it must fail you. For power is not a seeming strength. All that stands between you and the power in you is learning of the false. Be willing for all of it to be undone. Learning is in the past, but its influence makes the present by giving it whatever meaning it holds for you. Nothing you have learned can help you understand the present, or teach you to undo the past. Your past is what you taught yourself. Let it all go. **Do not attempt to understand any event or anyone.** The darkness in which you see only obscures it. Darkness cannot be seen; it is a condition in which seeing becomes impossible. You who have not yet brought all of the

darkness you taught yourself into the light in you can hardly judge the value of this course. Learn of happiness, which is yours. To accomplish this, all your dark lessons must be brought to truth. You need only **recognize** that everything you learned you do not want. When your peace is threatened or disturbed in any way, say to yourself:

I do not know what this, means.

I will not use my past to guide me now.

The miracle brings the effects that only guiltlessness can bring, and establishes the fact that guiltlessness must be. How can you, so firmly bound to guilt and committed so to remain, establish your guiltlessness for yourself? Be sure that you are willing to acknowledge that it is impossible. It is only because you think that you can deal with some aspects of your life alone that the guidance of Spirit is limited. Those who **remember** always that they know nothing, and have become willing to learn, will learn. When they trust themselves, they will not learn. **They have destroyed motivation for learning by thinking they already know.** Think not you understand anything until you pass the test of perfect peace, for peace and understanding go together and never can be found alone. Each brings the other with it. They are cause and effect, each to the other, so where one is absent the other cannot be. Only those who **recognize** they cannot know unless the effects of understanding are with them, can really learn at all. For this it must be peace they want. Whenever you think you know, peace will depart from you. **When you fully realize that you know not, peace will return.** Call not on ego for anything; it is only this that you need do. Spirit will fill every mind that makes room. If you want peace you must abandon attack. Make way for peace, and it will come. Understanding is in you, and from it peace must come. This will be the test by which you **recognize** that you have understood.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§1. The Two Uses Of Time

Can you imagine having no cares, no worries, no anxieties, but merely to be perfectly calm and quiet all the time? That is what time is for; to learn that and nothing more. One discouragement that you suffer is a belief that this takes time, and results are far in the future. This is not so. Spirit is not bound by time. The waste that time brings is due to identification with ego, which uses time to support its beliefs. Ego, like Spirit, uses time to convince you of the end of teaching. Ego is an ally of time, but not a friend. It is as mistrustful of death as it is of life. It speaks to you of Heaven, but assures you that Heaven is not for you. Can the guilty hope for Heaven? A belief in hell is inescapable to those who identify with ego. Nightmares and their fears are all associated with it. Ego teaches that hell is in the future. No one who follows ego's teaching is without fear of death. If death were merely an end to pain, would it be feared? Ego must seem to keep fear from you to hold your allegiance. Yet it must engender fear in order to maintain itself. Ego tries, and often succeeds, by using dissociation for holding its aims together so they seem reconciled. Ego teaches thus: Death is the end as far as hope of Heaven goes. Yet because you and ego cannot be separated, it will pursue you still, because guilt is eternal. Such is ego's version of immortality. It is this that ego's version of time supports. The only time ego allows one to look on with equanimity is the past. How bleak is ego's use of time! Underneath a fanatical insistence that the past and future be the same is hidden a more insidious threat to peace. A belief in guilt leads to belief in hell. The way in which ego allows fear of hell to be experienced is to bring hell here. There is no hell. Hell is what ego has made of the present. Belief in hell prevents you from understanding the present, because you are afraid of it. Spirit leads steadily to Heaven as ego drives to hell. Spirit knows only the present and uses it to undo fear by which ego would make the present useless. There is no escape from fear in ego's use of time. Fear is not of the present, but only of the past and future, which do not exist. There is no fear in the present when each instant stands clear and separated from the past, without its shadow reaching to the future. Each instant is a clean,

untarnished birth. The present extends forever. It is so beautiful and free of guilt that nothing but happiness is there. This lesson takes no time. For what is time without a past and future? It takes no time to be what you are. Practice Spirit's use of time as a teaching to happiness and peace. Take this very instant, **NOW**, and think of it as all there can be of time. Nothing can reach you here from the past. It is only here that you are ever free and without condemnation. From this holy instant holiness is born again and you will go forth in time without fear and with no sense of change due to time. Time is inconceivable without change, yet holiness does not change. Practice giving this blessed instant of freedom to all who are enslaved by time, and make time their friend. Spirit gives a blessed instant to you thru you giving it. Be willing to give what you receive, for you join in giving. In the cleanness of the release you give is your instant escape from guilt. You must be holy if you offer holiness. He who transcends time understands what time is for. Holiness lies not in time, but in eternity.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§2. The End Of Doubt

What holds **remembrance** cannot be bound by time. In a blessed instant you will let go your past learning, and Spirit will quickly offer the whole lesson of peace. What can take time, when all obstacles to learning have been removed? Do not be concerned with time. Fear not the instant of holiness that will remove all fear. The instant of peace is eternal because it is without fear. Joy is not contained in time. You have spent years chaining your brothers to ego in a vain attempt to support it. In this holy instant you will unchain all, and refuse to support their weakness or your own. You do not **realize** how much you have misused your brothers by seeing them as sources of ego support. Yet they are far stronger and compelling witnesses for Spirit. It is your choice whether they support ego or Spirit in you. You will **recognize** what you have chosen by their reactions. If you remain uncertain, it is only because you have not given complete release. You have not given a single instant completely to Spirit. When you have, you will be sure you have. You will be sure because the witness will speak so clearly that you will

understand. You will doubt until you hear one witness you have wholly released thru Spirit. Then you will doubt no more. The holy instant has not yet happened to you. You can practice the mechanics of the holy instant, and will certainly learn from doing so. Here it is, in this instant, complete. **Start now to practice your part in separating out the holy instant.** You will receive very specific instructions. To learn to separate this single second, to experience it as timeless, is to experience yourself as not separate. Use it but for an instant, and you will never deny it again. Before the **recognition** of the universe that witnesses to it, your doubts must disappear.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§3. Littleness Versus Magnitude

Be you not content with littleness. Be sure you understand what littleness is. Littleness is an offering you give yourself in place of magnitude, and you accept it. Everything in this world is little. It is made of littleness, in the strange belief that littleness can satisfy you. When you strive for anything in this world in the belief that it will bring you peace, you are belittling and blinding yourself. Littleness and glory are the choices open to your **vigilance**. You will always choose one at the expense of the other. What you do not **realize**, each time you choose, is that your choice is your evaluation of yourself. Choose littleness and you will not have peace, for you have judged yourself unworthy. What you offer as a substitute is too poor a gift to satisfy you. It is essential that you **accept**, and **accept** gladly, that there is no form of littleness that can content you. You are free to try as many as you wish, but all you will be doing is to delay your homecoming. There is a deep responsibility you owe yourself, and you must learn to **remember** all the time. The lesson may seem hard, but you will learn to love it when you **realize** it is true and a tribute to your power. You, who have sought littleness, **remember** this: **Every decision and act stems from what you think you are.** By limiting yourself you will not be satisfied. Your function is not little, and it is only by finding your function and fulfilling it that you can escape littleness. All striving must be directed against littleness, for it does require **vigilance** to protect your magnitude in this world. Every

decision you make is to Heaven or hell, and brings you the **awareness** of what you decided for. Littleness, and the belief that you can be content with littleness, are decisions you make about yourself.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§4. Practicing The Holy Instant

You delay **recognition**. The holy instant is this instant and every instant. **You decide when**. Delay it not. Beyond past and future it stands in shimmering readiness for your **acceptance**. You cannot bring it into **awareness** if you do not want it. Your practice must rest upon willingness to let littleness go. The instant in which magnitude will dawn is only as far away as your desire. By as much as you want it you will bring it near. You can claim the holy instant anytime and anywhere you want it. In your practice, try to give up all plans you have accepted for finding magnitude in littleness. It is not there. The reason this course is simple is that truth is simple. Complexity is of ego, and is nothing more than ego's attempt to obscure. You could live forever in the holy instant, beginning now and reaching to eternity, but for a very simple reason. The holy instant is a time in which you receive and give perfect communication. This means a time in which your mind is open to receive and give. It is **recognition** that all minds are in communication. It seeks to change nothing, but to **accept**. You believe you can harbor thoughts you would not share, and believe that salvation lies in keeping thoughts to yourself alone. In private thoughts, known only to yourself, you think you find a way to keep what you would have alone, and share what you would share. You wonder why you are not in communication with those around you. **Every thought that you hide cuts communication off**. The holy instant is given and received willingly. You will not be able to accept perfect communication as long as you would hide it from yourself. What you would hide is hidden from you. In your practice be **vigilant** against deception.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§5. The Holy Instant & Special Relationships

The holy instant is Spirit's most useful device for teaching love's meaning. Its purpose is to suspend judgment. Judgment is impossible without the past. **Make no attempt to judge.** You do not understand what anything means. You are afraid because you believe that without ego, all would be chaos. Yet without ego, all would be love. The past is ego's device. It is in the past you learned your needs. If you seek to separate out certain aspects of totality and look to them to meet imagined needs, you are attempting to use separation to save you. To believe that special relationships can offer salvation is the belief that separation is salvation. How can you decide that special aspects can give more than others? The past has taught you this. The holy instant teaches it is not so. All special relationships have elements of fear in them. This is why they shift and change. Love where fear entered cannot be depended on because it is not perfect. Spirit uses special relationships, which you chose to support ego, as learning experiences. Every relationship becomes a lesson in love. You have made special relationships. However unholy the reason you made them, translate them into holiness by removing fear. There is no substitute for love. If you would attempt to substitute one aspect of love for another, you have placed less value on one. You have separated and judged against both. You judged against yourself first. Ego's use of relationships is fragmented. It assembles reality to its liking, offering a picture that does not exist. In the holy instant no one is special. Your needs intrude on no one. In the holy instant, you see in each relationship what it will be when you perceive only the present. In the holy instant there is no conflict of needs.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§6. The Holy Instant And The Laws Of God

Relationships are total commitments; yet do not conflict with one another. Perfect faith in each, for its ability to satisfy, arises only from perfect faith in yourself. This you cannot have while guilt remains. There will be guilt as long as you accept the possibility that you can make a brother into what he is not. You have so little faith in yourself because you are unwilling to

accept that perfect love is in you. So you seek outside what you cannot find outside. All separation vanishes as holiness is shared. Holiness is power and by sharing gains strength. Someone must always lose if you perceive yourself weak. There is another interpretation of relationship that transcends loss. In the world of scarcity, love has no meaning and peace is impossible. Gain and loss are both accepted. No one is aware that perfect love is in him. In the holy instant you **recognize** the love in you, and unite this with the Mind that thought it. By holding it within itself, there is no loss. The holy instant becomes a lesson in how to hold your brothers in mind. It follows that you can only give. This is love. The veil across reality is lifted. Nothing has changed. The **awareness** of changelessness comes swiftly as the veil of time is pushed aside. No one who has not yet experienced the lifting of the veil, and felt himself drawn irresistibly into the light behind it, can have faith in love without fear. Spirit gives you this faith. Fear not the holy instant will be denied you. **Remember** that understanding is of the mind, and only of the mind. Knowledge is therefore of the mind, and its conditions are in the mind with it. If you were not an idea, and nothing but an idea, you could not be in full communication with all that ever was. As long as you prefer to be something else you will not **remember** the language of communication.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§7. The Needless Sacrifice

Every relationship ego embarks on is special. Ego establishes relationships to get something. It keeps the giver bound thru guilt. It is impossible for ego to enter into a relationship without anger. This is not its statement, but its result. Ego believes that it can get and keep by making guilty. The sick attraction of guilt must be **recognized** for what it is. Having been made real, it is essential to look clearly. No one would choose to let go what he believes has value. The attraction of guilt has value only because you have not looked at it, and have judged it in the dark. Ego attempts to maintain and increase guilt, but in such a way that you do not **recognize** what it would do to you. **It is ego's doctrine that what you do to others you escape.** It will enable you to direct anger outward. It embarks on an endless

chain of special relationships, dedicated to one belief; that the more anger you invest, the safer you become. It is this chain that binds to guilt. Look closely at the relationships ego contrives. You will be willing to find, if you are willing to perceive what you have made. Every relationship ego makes is based on the idea that by sacrificing itself, it becomes bigger. It would prefer to attack directly, and avoid delaying what it really wants. The guilty expect attack. Each thinks he sacrificed something, and hates for it. He is not in love with the other at all. He demands that the other accept sacrifice. Forgiveness is impossible, for ego believes that to forgive is to lose. It is only by attack that ego ensures guilt holds its relationships together. Relationships only seem to be together. Relationships mean only that bodies are together. As long as the body is there to receive its sacrifice, it is content. To ego the mind is private, and only the body can be shared. Suffering and sacrifice are the gifts with which ego would bless all unions. Each believes this decreases guilt in him. The other seems to be attacking in little ways, yet never without a demand of sacrifice. Guilt is the only need ego has, and as long as you identify with it, guilt will remain attractive. **Remember** to be with a body is not communication. The union of bodies becomes the way they would keep minds apart. Bodies cannot forgive. They only do as the mind directs. The illusion of the body and its ability to overcome loneliness is ego's plan to establish its own autonomy. Forgiveness lies in communication as surely as damnation lies in guilt. Willingness to communicate attracts, and overcomes loneliness. It is here that you experience yourself as you are.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§8. The Only Real Relationship

The holy instant does not replace the need for learning. For a teaching assignment such as this, Spirit must use everything in this world for your release. He must side with every sign of your willingness to learn what the truth must be. Spirit is swift to utilize whatever you offer on behalf of this. His concern and care for you are limitless. In the face of your fear of forgiveness, which He perceives as clearly as He knows forgiveness is release, He will teach you to **remember** that forgiveness is not

loss, but your salvation. In complete forgiveness, in which you **recognize** nothing to forgive, you are absolved completely. Hear gladly, and learn you have need of no special relationships at all. You seek in them what you have thrown away. Thru them you will never learn the value of what you have cast aside, but still desire with all your heart. Join in making the holy instant all that there is, by desiring that it be all that there is. Refuse not the **awareness** of your completion. Seek not to restore it to yourself. Fear not to give redemption over to love. **Accept** your sense of failure as nothing more than a mistake in who you are. You are forever in a relationship so holy that it calls to everyone to escape from loneliness, and join you in your love. Where you are everyone must seek, and find you there. Nothing that ever was created is but yours. Your relationships are with the universe. This universe is far beyond the petty sum of all the separate bodies you perceive. Spirit asks you to respond, to teach you what you do not understand. In Spirit lies **awareness**. It is a holy function to **accept**, and by removing every element of disagreement, to join them into one.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§9. The Holy Instant & Attraction Of God

Ego would limit perception of your brothers to the body. Spirit would release vision and let you see. The shift to vision is accomplished in the holy instant. **Learn what this shift entails, so you will make it permanent.** Given this it will not leave you, for it is permanent. Once you have **accepted** it as the only perception you want, it is translated into knowledge. In this there is no delay when you are ready for it. The task is to continue, as fast as possible, the process of looking straight at the interference and seeing it exactly as it is. Communication must be unlimited in order to have meaning, and deprived of meaning, it will not satisfy you. It is the only way you can establish relationships with no limits. In order to see this, it is necessary to give up every use ego has for the body. Ego has no purpose you would share. You have surely **recognized** that ego, whose goals are unattainable, will strive for them with all the strength that you give it. Limit your sight of a brother to his body, which you will do as long as you would not release him

from it, and you have denied his gift to you. Your minds are continuous, and their union need only be **accepted** and loneliness is gone. Only those whom you would see without the limits ego imposes can offer you freedom. You have no conception of the limits you have placed on perception, and no idea of the loveliness you could see. Seek not Atonement in separation. When the body ceases to attract you, and you place no value on it as a means of getting anything, there will be no interference in communication and your thoughts will be free. In the holy instant there are no bodies. The reality of this relationship becomes the only truth that you could ever want.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§10. The Time Of Rebirth

Learn that sacrifice of any kind is a limitation imposed on giving. The gift of union is the only gift. **Give it, that you may have it.** It is in your power to make this season holy. It is possible to do this all at once. There is but one shift in perception that is necessary. You made but one mistake. Ego takes many forms, but is always the same idea. What is not love is always fear, and nothing else. It is this that you must look on; sacrifice is attack. If you would **accept** this one idea, fear of love would vanish. Guilt cannot last when the idea of sacrifice has been removed. If there is sacrifice, someone pays and someone gets. The only question that remains is the price. Payment does not seem to be yours. Ego demands payment, it never seems to demand of you. Ego is treacherous to its host. Ego will not ever let you see this, since you would make ego homeless. When **recognition** dawns clearly, you will not be deceived by any form ego takes to protect itself. Each is a cover for ideas that hide. Sacrifice is inseparable from attack and fear. Everyone outside will demand sacrifice. **You do not see that only you demand, and only of yourself.** No partial sacrifice can appease this, because it is an invader seeming to offer kindness. You will not be partial hostage to ego, for it makes no bargains. You must choose between total freedom and total bondage. Salvation is very easy to understand. Do not project it and see it outside yourself. In you is the question and the answer.

Chapter 15 - The Holy Instant

§11. Christmas As The End Of Sacrifice

Recognize the idea of sacrifice as of your making. Seek safety not by attempting to protect yourself. Your brothers have become fearful. You would bargain for a few special relationships, in which you see some scraps of safety. The sign of Christmas is a light in darkness. See it not outside yourself, but shining within. Celebrate release by releasing everyone. Leave nothing behind, for when you have **accepted** it you will give it. Pain and sacrifice disappear. Without sacrifice, love must be there. You who believe that sacrifice is love must learn that sacrifice is separation. Sacrifice brings guilt as sure as love brings peace. What you exclude from yourself seems fearful, for you endow it with fear and try to cast it out, though it is part of you. Who can perceive part of himself as loathsome, and live within himself in peace? As long as you perceive the body as your reality, you will perceive yourself as deprived. So long you will also perceive yourself as a victim of sacrifice, justified in sacrificing others. The basis is the belief in deprivation. Deprivation breeds the belief that attack is justified. As long as you retain deprivation, attack becomes salvation and sacrifice becomes love. In seeking for love, you seek sacrifice and so find it. The meaning of love lies in what you have cast outside yourself, and it has no meaning apart from you. It is what you prefer to keep that has no meaning. In the holy instant the condition of love is met, minds are joined without the body's interference, and where there is communication there is peace. Sacrifice is nowhere. Love is everywhere. Communication embraces everything, and in the peace it establishes, love comes of itself. There is much to do, and has been long delayed. Take your place in the **Great Awakening**. Let all your relationships be made holy.

Chapter 16 The Forgiveness Of Illusions

§1. True Empathy

To empathize does not mean to join in suffering. That is what you must refuse, which is ego's interpretation of empathy. Capacity to empathize is very useful to Spirit. The proof that empathy is destructive, as ego uses it, is that it is applied only to certain people. These it selects and joins with. It never joins except to strengthen itself. Make no mistake about this maneuver. Ego empathizes to weaken, and to weaken is to attack. You do not know what empathy means. If you merely sit quietly and let Spirit relate thru you, you will empathize with strength. Your part is only to **remember** this; you do not want anything you value to come of a relationship. You choose neither to hurt it nor to heal it in your way. All you learned of empathy is from the past. There is nothing of the past that you would keep. Do not use empathy to make the past real. Step aside, and let healing be done for you. Keep one thought in mind and do not lose sight of it, however tempted you are to judge. **You cannot know how to respond to what you do not understand.** Be tempted not in this, and yield not to ego's use of empathy for its own glory. The triumph of weakness is not what you would offer a brother. Yet you recognize no triumph but this. The form of empathy which would bring this about is so distorted that it imprisons what it should release. **Attempt to teach Him not. You are the learner; he the Teacher.**

Chapter 16 The Forgiveness Of Illusions

§2. The Power Of Holiness

You think holiness is hard to understand. It simply must include everyone to be holy. There is a tendency be concerned about the truth of just a part. This is but a way of looking away from the whole. A helpful way to think of miracles is this: You do not understand, either in part or in whole. Yet they have been done thru you. Your understanding cannot be needed. It is impossible to accomplish what you do not understand. There must be something in you that does understand. To you a miracle cannot seem natural, because what you have done to hurt your mind has made it unnatural. When you are told what is natural, you

cannot understand. The **recognition** of a part as a whole and of the whole in every part is perfectly natural. You have done miracles, but it is apparent that you have not done them alone. You succeed when you reach another mind and joined with it. When minds join and share one idea, a link in **awareness** has been made. Regard this with rejoicing. You have come too near to truth to renounce it now. Never again will you be wholly willing not to listen. This is a year of joy, in which your listening will increase and peace will grow. The power of holiness and the weakness of attack are being brought into your **awareness**. This has been accomplished in a mind formerly convinced that holiness is weakness and attack is power. Reality is safe and wholly kind to everyone. There is no greater love than to **accept** this. These ideas are mighty forces, to be used and not held idly by. Invest in truth, and let it work in peace.

Chapter 16 The Forgiveness Of Illusions

§3. The Reward Of Teaching

You have taught well; yet you have not learned how to **accept** your teaching. It is certain that you judge yourself according to your teaching. Ego's teaching produces immediate results, because its decisions are immediately accepted as your choice. This acceptance means you are willing to watch yourself. The fact that you have not learned what you have taught shows that you do not perceive yourself as one. It is impossible that conviction be outside of you. You can never teach freedom unless you believe. What you taught came from yourself. This Self you do not know, and do not **recognize**. It is only if you deny what it has done that you could possibly deny its presence. **This is a course in how to know yourself.** You taught what you are, but have not let what you are teach you. Within you is everything you taught. It is this part that you have taken in that is not you. What you accept into your mind does not really change it. Illusions are but beliefs in what is not there. The seeming conflict between truth and illusion can only be resolved by separating yourself from the illusion. Your teaching has already done this. You must learn that you taught yourself, and learned from conviction. This year you begin to learn, and make learning commensurate with teaching. You have chosen this by

your willingness to teach. Though you seem to suffer for it, the joy of teaching will yet be yours. The joy of teaching is in the learner. This is you, and nothing outside of this is you. Sooner or later everyone must bridge the gap between selves. The one who would cross over is literally transported there. You will come where you would be, and where your Self awaits you.

Chapter 16 The Forgiveness Of Illusions

§4. The Illusion & The Reality Of Love

The special love relationship, in which the meaning of love is hidden, is undertaken to offset hate. Your salvation will rise clearly before you as you look on this. You cannot limit hate. The special love relationship will not offset it, but will merely drive it underground and out of sight. An attempt to balance hate with love will make love meaningless. The extent of the split that lies in this you do not **realize**. Until you do, the split will remain unhealed. You will go thru this last undoing and will at last emerge as yourself. The special love relationship is an attempt to limit hate by finding a haven in guilt. The special love relationship is not perceived as a value in itself. The special love partner is acceptable only as long as he serves this purpose. If the illusion goes, the relationship becomes unsatisfying. Love is never an illusion. As long as illusion of hate lasts, love is an illusion. The only choice remaining is the illusion you prefer. Your task is not to seek for love, but for all of the barriers you have built. If you seek love outside you perceive hatred within. Peace will come only from its reality. The special love relationship is an attempt to bring love into fear. The special love relationship is but a shabby substitute for what makes you whole. To lift the veil, only value truth and be unwilling to settle for illusion.

Chapter 16 The Forgiveness Of Illusions

§5. The Choice For Completion

In the special relationship, it is necessary to **realize** it involves pain. Anxiety and attack enter, broken by periods in which they seem to be gone. Whatever form they take, they are an attack on the self. They are judged acceptable. No one considers it bizarre to love and hate together. This is separation. Love is union. Where the illusion of love is accepted in love's place, love

becomes exclusion. Heaven is completion; both ego and Spirit accept it. They disagree on what completion is. Spirit knows that completion lies in union, and extension of union. To ego completion lies in triumph. In this it sees the ultimate freedom of self, for nothing remains to interfere with ego. Union is hell to ego. The special relationship is an ego device for joining hell and Heaven. **The attempt to find both worlds has led to the inability to perceive either.** The special relationship is a union from which union is excluded. Most curious of all is the concept of self which ego fosters in the special relationship. This self will seek the relationship to make itself more complete. Yet when it finds the special relationship it tries to trade itself for another. This is not union, for there is no increase and no extension. Whoever seems to possess a special self is loved for what can be taken. If both partners see this special self in each other, ego sees a union made in Heaven. For neither one will **recognize** he has asked for hell, and so will not interfere with ego. The conviction of littleness is in every special relationship, for only the deprived could value specialness. Whenever any form of special relationship tempts you, **remember** love is content, and not form. There is no meaning in form, and never will be. Unless love's meaning is restored, you cannot know yourself. **Separation is the decision not to know yourself.**

Chapter 16 The Forgiveness Of Illusions

§6. The Bridge To The Real World

The search for the special relationship is the sign that you equate yourself with ego. For the special relationship has value only to ego. To ego, unless a relationship has special value it has no meaning. This cannot be natural, and all relationships unlike this must be unnatural. Love is freedom. It is impossible to define it otherwise and understand it. To look for it by placing yourself in bondage is to separate yourself from it. The closer you look at the special relationship, the more apparent it becomes that it must foster guilt. The special relationship is totally meaningless without a body. If you value it, you also value the body. The special relationship is a device that limits the self to a body, and for limiting perception of others to theirs. On this side you see the world of separate bodies, seeking to

join in separate unions and become one by losing. When two individuals seek to become one, they are trying to decrease their magnitude. The special relationship ego seeks does not include even one whole individual. Ego wants but part, and sees only this part. Once you cross the bridge you will **realize** that the only value the body has is to enable you to bring your brothers to the bridge, to be released together. The bridge is a transition in the perspective of reality. On this side, everything you see is distorted and out of perspective. What is insignificant is magnified, and what is powerful cut to littleness. In the transition there is a period of confusion, in which a sense of actual disorientation may occur. Fear not, it means you are willing to let your distorted frame of reference go. The urgency is only in dislodging your mind from its fixed position here. This will not leave you without a frame of reference. The period of disorientation, which precedes the actual transition, is far shorter than the time it took to fix your mind so firmly on illusions. Delay will hurt now more than before, because you **realize** escape from pain is really possible. You are no longer wholly insane, and you would soon **recognize** the guilt of self-betrayal for what it is. Nothing you seek to strengthen in the special relationship is part of you. You have allowed reality to enter your mind. Your love for it will no longer allow you to betray yourself. You could not enter into a relationship where it could not go with you. No one need suffer, for you have come too far to yield to the illusion of guilt. Be thankful there is a place where truth and beauty wait for you. Go to meet them gladly. The new perspective you gain from crossing over will be the understanding of what Heaven is. From this side, it seems to be outside and across the bridge. Yet as you cross to join it, it will join with you. You will think, in glad astonishment, that for all this you gave up nothing! The joy of Heaven, which has no limit, is increased with each light that returns to take its rightful place within it. Wait not a minute longer. May the holy instant speed you on the way, as it will surely do if you let it come to you. Spirit asks only this little help of you: **When your thoughts wander to a special relationship which still attracts you, enter into a holy instant.** Your willingness need not be complete because Spirit is perfect. Out of unwillingness for release, perfect willingness is given you.

Chapter 16 The Forgiveness Of Illusions

§7. The End Of Illusions

It is impossible to let the past go without relinquishing the special relationship. It is an attempt to re-enact the past and change it. Imagined disappointment and deprivation enter the special relationship, which becomes merely a way you seek to restore your wounded self-esteem. What basis do you have for choosing a special partner without the past? Such choice is made because of evil in the past to which you cling. No special relationship is experienced in the present. If it means nothing now, it has no meaning at all. The past is nothing. Do not seek to lay the blame for deprivation on it. Do not underestimate ego's drive for vengeance. Ego **remembers** every last thing you do, and seeks retribution. Ego holds the past against you. Without your alliance, ego could not possibly hold you. The present is useless while you pursue ego's goal. In the special relationship it does not seem to be vengeance you seek. Even when savagery breaks thru, the illusion of love is not shaken. One thing ego never allows to reach **awareness** is that the special relationship is an act of vengeance on yourself. In seeking the special relationship, you look not for glory in yourself. **You have denied that it is there.** A relationship becomes a substitute. Against ego's insane notions Spirit gently lays the holy instant. In the holy instant the past is gone. You bring illusions into the holy instant, to **awareness** of the difference between truth and illusion. You will not attempt this long. The power of Spirit will prevail because you join. Illusions you bring with you weaken the experience for a while, and prevent you from keeping the experience in your mind. All that must be forgiven are the illusions you have held. **Remember** that you always choose between truth and illusion.

Chapter 17 - Forgiveness & The Holy Relationship

§1. Bringing Fantasy To Truth

Betrayal lies only in illusions, and all sins are but your own imagining. Reality is sinless. You need not to be forgiven but **awakened**. In dreams you have betrayed yourself. Yet what is done in dreams has not been really done. It is impossible to convince the dreamer that this is so, for dreams are what they are because of the illusion. They had no effect on reality and did not change it. Fantasies change reality. That is their purpose. They do so in the mind that would have reality be different. It is your wish to only change reality that is fearful, because by your wish you think you have accomplished what you wish. **This strange position acknowledges your power.** Your lack of faith in the power that heals arises from a wish to retain some aspects of fantasy. You have established this order by giving some of it to one teacher and some to another. You learn to deal with part of truth in one way and part in another way. To fragment truth is to destroy it. It is an order of reality without understanding; a frame for reality to which it cannot be compared at all. Think that you can learn what truth means from the perspective of illusions? When you try to bring truth to illusions, you are trying to make illusions real. To give illusions to truth is to enable truth to teach that illusions are unreal, and enable you to escape. Orders of reality imprison you. There is no order in reality. Forget not this: When you become disturbed and lose your peace of mind because another is attempting to solve his problems thru fantasy, you are refusing to forgive yourself for this same attempt. **You are holding both of you away from truth and salvation.** As you forgive him, you restore to truth what was denied by both of you. You will see forgiveness where you have given it.

Chapter 17 - Forgiveness & The Holy Relationship

§2. The Forgiven World

Imagine how beautiful those you forgive will look to you. You have never seen anything so lovely. Nothing you see here, sleeping or waking, comes near to such loveliness. Nothing will you value like this. Nothing that you **remember** has brought

you even a little piece of the happiness this sight brings you. This loveliness is not a fantasy. It is the real world, bright and clean, with everything sparkling under the sun. Nothing is hidden, everything is forgiven and there are no fantasies to hide truth. The bridge between that world and this is easy to cross; you could not believe it is the meeting place of worlds so different. This little step, so small it escaped your notice, strides into eternity, beyond ugliness into beauty, and will never cease to cause wonderment at its perfection. The step is the smallest ever taken. All else is learned, but this is given. You learn to reach the real world in its loveliness. Fantasies are undone. No one is bound by them. By your forgiveness you are free to see. Perception is meaningless when perfected, for everything that has been used for learning has no function. Nothing ever changes; no differences or variations that made perception possible still occur. The real world is attained simply by the complete forgiveness of the old, the world you see without forgiveness. All this beauty will rise to bless your sight as you look on the world with forgiving eyes. Forgiveness literally transforms vision, and lets you see the real world reaching quietly and gently across chaos, removing all illusions that fixed perception on the past. The smallest leaf is a thing of wonder, a blade of grass a sign of perfection. Even salvation becomes a dream and vanishes. Salvation is the end of dreams. **How much do you want salvation?**

Chapter 17 - Forgiveness & The Holy Relationship

§3. Shadows Of The Past

To forgive is to **remember** loving thoughts. The rest must be forgotten. Forgiveness is a selective **remembering**, not based on your selection. The shadow figures you would make immortal are enemies of reality. As you bring them, you hear them. You who keep them by selection do not understand how they came to your mind. They represent evil you think was done to you. You bring them with you so you may return evil. They speak for separation. No one not obsessed with keeping separation can hear them. They offer reasons to enter into unholy alliances to support ego. These shadow figures would make ego holy in your sight. Shadows speak of vengeance. What reminds you of past

grievances attracts you. Continuity extends the present by increasing its reality and its value in your perception. In these loving thoughts the spark of beauty is hidden where hatred is remembered. The past is the source of separation, and there it must be undone. Separation must be corrected where it was made. Ego seeks to resolve problems where they were not made. Thus it guarantees no solution. With each step separation is more undone and union brought closer. You will learn to seek for and establish the conditions in which this beauty can be seen. Be sure you **realize** what you have made the past to represent. The past becomes justification for an unholy alliance with ego against the present. It is up to you to choose. **Remember** that to choose one is to let the other go. Thought systems are but true or false, and all their attributes come simply from what they are.

Chapter 17 - Forgiveness & The Holy Relationship

§4. The Two Pictures

In this world it is impossible to create. Spirit would not deprive you of your special relationships, but transform them. You have made real relationships in this world. You do not **recognize** them because you raised substitutes. When truth calls to you, you answer with a substitute. Special relationships you made occupy you so completely that you do not hear the call of truth. Ego is alert to threat. It does not realize it is insane. All defenses are as insane as what they protect. Separation has no part and no attribute that is not insane. So the special relationship must also be insane. You have little difficulty now in realizing that the thought system the special relationship protects is a system of delusion. You **recognize** generally that ego is insane. The special relationship still seems different. While this remains, you will not let the others go. This one is not different. Retain this and you have retained the whole. **It is essential to realize that all defenses do what they would defend.** Defense gives the gift of a thought system protected in a golden frame. The frame is elaborate and set with jewels. It is to be of value in itself and divert **attention** from what it encloses. The frame without the picture you cannot have. A special relationship has the most deceptive frame of all defenses. The picture is hidden

by its imposing structure. Into the frame are woven fragmented illusions of love, set with sacrifice and self-destruction. The blood shines like rubies, and tears are like diamonds. Look at the picture. Do not let the frame distract you. You cannot have the frame without the picture. The frame is only the wrapping for the conflict. It encloses the whole, complete in all aspects. The holy instant is a taste of Heaven. Accept this gift and you will not see the frame. The holy instant is a miniature of eternity. If you focus on the picture, you **realize** it was a frame that made you think it was a picture. As the thought system of ego lies in its gifts, so Heaven lies in this instant. Two gifts are offered. Each is complete, and cannot be partially accepted. You cannot compare their value by comparing a picture to a frame. **Remember** the picture is the gift. Only on this basis are you free to choose. One is tiny, hard to see beneath the shadows of its enclosure. The other is lightly framed and hung in light. You have tried so hard to fit the picture into the wrong frame and combine what cannot be combined. **Accept** and be glad: The pictures are framed for what they represent. One is out of focus. The other is clarity. As a senseless darkness is exposed to light, it becomes dull and lifeless. Then you look on the picture. Unprotected by the frame, it has no meaning. The other picture is lightly framed. **There is no distraction here.** Eternity grows convincing. Now a change of both pictures can occur. Each is given its place when seen in relation to other. The dark picture is not fearful, but just a picture. What you see you **recognize** as what it is. Beyond you see nothing. The picture of light lies beyond the picture. Look on this, it is your reality. This is not some figured representation, but Thought itself. **Remembrance** offers creation to you.

Chapter 17 - Forgiveness & The Holy Relationship

§5. The Healed Relationship

The holy relationship is an expression of the holy instant. The holy instant is a device, witnessed to by results. The holy instant never fails. The experience is always felt. Without expression it is not **remembered**. An unholy relationship is a hymn of hate and a holy relationship is a song of praise. The holy relationship, a major step to perception of the real world, is learned. It is a phenomenal accomplishment. It represents reversal. The only

difficult phase is the beginning. The goal of the relationship is abruptly shifted to the opposite of what it was. This is the result of offering relationship to Spirit. This invitation is accepted, and Spirit wastes no time in results. It is accomplished, but makes a relationship seem distressing. The reason is that the relationship is out of line with its goal, and unsuited to the purpose accepted for it. Once the unholy relationship has accepted the goal of holiness, it can never again be what it was. Temptation is intense with this shift. The relationship is threatened by the **recognition** of its inability to meet a new purpose. They cannot coexist. There is no course except to change the relationship. Until this solution is seen and **accepted** as the way out of conflict, the relationship seems strained. It would not be kind to shift the goal slowly, for ego would be given time to reinterpret. Only a radical shift can induce a complete change. A relationship suddenly has only holiness for its goal. Perception no longer serves the purpose they agreed to. This is the time for faith. Now the rewards of faith are being introduced. The goal is set. Relationship has sanity as purpose. Ego counsels: substitute this for a relationship to which your former goal was appropriate. You can escape from your distress only by getting rid of your brother. Hear this not! Spirit asks for faith a little longer, even in bewilderment. This will go, and you will see justification for faith bring conviction. Abandon not one another. This relationship has been reborn as holy. **Remember** you have started again, together. You have joined in the holy instant, and they joined with you. All it needs now is your blessing. Salvation has come. Welcome it together; it has come to join you. You undertook together to invite Spirit. Spirit cannot enter otherwise. You have made mistakes since then; you have also made enormous efforts to help Spirit. Nor does Spirit see mistakes. Are you as grateful to your brother? Do you consistently appreciate good efforts? The experience of an instant is forgotten if you allow time to close over it. You must keep it shining and gracious in your **awareness**. The instant remains. **Where are you?** You have received the holy instant, but you may have established a condition in which you cannot use it. By cutting yourself off from its expression, you deny its benefit. You and your brother stand together in the holy presence of truth itself. The goal itself will arrange the means for its accomplishment.

Chapter 17 - Forgiveness & The Holy Relationship

§6. Setting The Goal

The practical application of Spirit's purpose is simple. The setting is general. Now work to make it specific. There are specific guidelines for any situation, but **remember** you do not see their universal application. It is essential to use them separately until you can look beyond a situation, in an understanding broader than you possess. In any situation in which you are uncertain, first consider: What do I want to come of this? Clarify the goal at the beginning, for this determines outcome. In ego's procedure this is reversed. The situation then determines the outcome. Without a goal, the situation just seems to happen, and makes no sense. You look back and piece together what it meant. You will be wrong. Judgment is the past and you have no idea what should happen. The only judgment is whether or not ego likes it. Is it acceptable or a call for vengeance? The absence of criteria, set in advance, makes evaluation impossible. You make effort to overlook what interferes, and **concentrate** on what helps. The true becomes what can be used. The false becomes the useless. The situation has meaning, but only because the goal has made it so. If the situation is used for sanity, its outcome is peace. This is apart from what the outcome is. If you experience peace, it is because truth came, for deception cannot prevail. You will **recognize** the outcome because you are at peace. Spirit knows the situation is as the goal determines, and is experienced according to the goal. The goal of truth requires faith. Faith is implicit in **acceptance** of Spirit's purpose. Truth has not come because faith has been denied.

Chapter 17 - Forgiveness & The Holy Relationship

§7. The Call For Faith

Substitutes for parts of a situation are witnesses to your lack of faith. You did not believe the situation and problem were in the same place. The problem was lack of faith. You do not see the problem. Had you not lacked faith the problem would be gone. The interference in understanding would have been removed. To remove yourself makes it unsolvable. There is no problem faith will not solve. If you shift part elsewhere the meaning is lost, and the solution is in its meaning. Your problems have been

solved, but you have removed yourself from the solution. A situation is a relationship, being the joining of thoughts. If problems are perceived, it is thoughts judged as in conflict. **Remember** this: the goal of holiness is set for your relationship. Holiness cannot be seen except thru faith. Your relationship was not holy because faith in your brother was limited. Faith must grow to meet the goal. The goal's reality will call this forth. Peace and faith will not come apart. Every situation is a means to meet the purpose set for a relationship. If you see it as something else, you are faithless. Faithlessness is the servant of illusion. Be tempted not by what it offers. Holiness and faith go hand in hand. **Do not interfere.** The power set in you is far beyond your conception. You have no idea how great the strength that goes with you. Yet faithlessness makes it useless. There is no situation that does not involve your relationship in every aspect. Enter situations with faith, or you are faithless. Spirit changed the purpose of your relationship and the goal was extended to every situation you enter, made free of the past.

Chapter 17 - Forgiveness & The Holy Relationship

§8. The Conditions Of Peace

The holy instant is a special case of what every situation is meant to be. It calls forth the suspension of faithlessness, withheld and left unused, that faith might answer to the call of truth. The holy instant is the shining example, the clear demonstration of the meaning of every relationship and situation. Faith **accepted** every aspect of the situation, and faithlessness has not forced any exclusion on it. It is perfect peace, simply because you have let it be. Let truth be what it is. Do not intrude upon it, do not attack it and do not interrupt its coming. Let it encompass every situation. Not even faith is asked of you, for truth asks nothing. Let it enter, and it will call forth and secure you the faith you need for peace. Against your opposition it cannot come. This power instantly transforms all situations into one continuous means for demonstrating reality. It becomes a fact, from which faith can no longer be withheld. The strain of refusing faith is enormous. To answer with faith entails no strain. The strain was here, but you believed that something else produced it. What something else produced was

depression, pain and fear. It was nothing but the strain of refusing to give faith. Faithlessness did this. Think carefully before you let yourself be faithless. You have assumed your part in redemption, and you are now fully responsible. Fail not now, for it has been given you to **realize** what your lack of faith must mean to you. **Salvation is your only purpose.** See this in every situation. When you **accept** truth as the goal for your relationship, you became a giver of peace. The goal of peace cannot be accepted apart from its conditions. Demonstrate that you have risen beyond any situation that could hold you back.

Chapter 18 - The Passing Of The Dream

§1. The Substitute Reality

To substitute is to **accept** instead. For this purpose, one aspect is judged more valuable and the other is replaced. The relationship is fragmented and its purpose split. To fragment is to exclude, and substitution is the strongest defense ego has for separation. Spirit uses no substitutes. Nothing can come between what Spirit knows as one. Everything seems to come between a relationship ego sponsors. Substitution is impossible is love. Fear involves substitution. It is love's replacement. Fear is a fragmenting emotion. It seems to take many forms, and each requires a different form of satisfaction. A more serious effect lies in fragmented perception. No one is seen complete. That error brought truth to illusion and infinity to time. It was all you ever made. Your world rests on it. Everything you see reflects it, and every special relationship is part of it. You may be surprised how very different reality is from what you see. You do not **realize** the magnitude. It is so incredible that from it a world of total unreality emerges. Its aspects are fearful as you begin to look at them. The error seems to cast you out and shatter knowledge. The world is the screen on which it projected and drawn between you and truth. Truth extends inward, where loss is meaningless. Call it not sin but madness. Invest not with guilt, for guilt implies it was accomplished. Above all, be not afraid of it. Inward is sanity; insanity is outside. You believe it is the other way. Turn to the calm within, in holy stillness. In you there is no separation, and no substitute can keep you from your brother. You are joined together in thought so perfect that illusions cannot remain. Join in peace and gratitude. The universe within you stands with you together. The holy light that brings you together must extend as you **accept** it.

Chapter 18 - The Passing Of The Dream

§2. The Basis Of The Dream

A world that seems quite real arises in dreams. Think what this world is. It is clearly not the world you saw before you slept. It is a distortion. This would not be your wish unless you see yourself as ego that looks on you as vulnerable. Dreams are chaotic

because they are governed by conflicting wishes. They have no concern with what is true. They are how perception substitutes illusion for truth. You do not take them seriously on awaking. Yet they are a way of looking at the world, and changing it to suit ego. They are examples of ego's inability to tolerate reality. You do not find differences between what you see in sleep and on awaking disturbing. In dreams you arrange everything. People become what you would have them be. It seems the world is given you to make it what you wish. You do not **realize** you are attacking, trying to make it serve you. Dreams are just perceptual temper tantrums. The dream cannot escape its origin. The illusion of satisfaction is invaded by the illusion of terror. Your attempts to blot out reality are fearful. So you substitute the fantasy that reality is fearful. Guilt is made real. Dreams show that you have the power to make a world, and as you want it you see it. While you see it you do not doubt that it is real. Here is a world, in your mind, that seems to be outside. You do not respond as if you made it, nor **realize** that emotions the dream produces come from you. The figures and what they do seem to make the dream. You do not **realize** you are making them act for you. If you did the guilt would not be theirs. You seem to **awaken**, and the dream is gone. What you fail to **recognize** is that what caused the dream has not gone. Your wish to make a world not real remains with you. What you **awaken** to is a form of the same world. All your time is spent in dreaming. Sleeping and waking dreams have different form, and that is all. They are a protest against reality. **While you see more value in sleeping, you will not let go of it.** The first change, before dreams disappear, is fear dreams are changed to happy dreams. Spirit does that in a special relationship. He does not destroy it. The special relationship will remain as a source of joy and freedom. It will not be for you alone, for therein lay its misery. As its unholiness kept it a thing apart, its holiness will become an offering to everyone. Your special relationship will be a means for undoing guilt in everyone. It will be a happy dream, and one which you will share with all who come within your sight. Thru it, the blessing Spirit has laid upon it will be extended. Think not that he has forgotten anyone in the purpose he has given you. Think not that he has forgotten to whom he gave the gift. He uses everyone who calls as means for salvation

of everyone. He **awakens** everyone thru you who offered your relationship to him. If you but **recognize** his gratitude! We are joined as in one purpose, being of one mind with him. Let not the dream take hold and close your eyes. It is not strange that dreams can make a world that is unreal. It is the wish to make it unreal that is incredible. Your relationship with your brother has now become one in which the wish has been removed. You are so used to choosing you do not see that you have made the choice between truth and illusions. The dream of waking is transferred to its reality.

Chapter 18 - The Passing Of The Dream

§3. Light In The Dream

You have spent your life in bringing reality to fantasy, walking the way of dreams. You have gone from waking to sleeping and on to a deeper sleep. Each dream leads to other dreams. Fantasy that seemed to bring a light made the darkness deeper. You sought a blackness so complete you could hide in insanity. What you forgot is that light is in you. Darkness can cover it, but cannot put it out. As the light comes nearer you will shrink from truth, sometimes retreating. You advance, because your goal is to advance from fear to truth. When you are afraid you step back. The journey in darkness is cruel, and you have gone deep into it. A little flicker of your eyes has not been sufficient to give you confidence. You do not **realize** that you are not afraid of love, only of what you made it into. You are advancing to love's meaning. When you retreat to illusion your fear increases, for there is little doubt what you think it means is fearful. What is that to us who travel swiftly away from fear? Your relationship is this world's light. Fear must disappear before you now. Be tempted not to snatch away the gift of faith you offered your brother. You will succeed only in frightening yourself. **Remember** that understanding is not necessary. All that is necessary is the wish for the desire to be holy. Each instant will teach this goal is possible. In your desire lies accomplishment. Your desire is now in accord with the power of Spirit. You are willing to bring darkness to light, and willingness has given strength to everyone who would remain in darkness. **Those who would see will see.**

Chapter 18 - The Passing Of The Dream

§4. The Little Willingness

The holy instant is your determination to be holy. The willingness to let it come precedes it. You prepare for it only to the extent of **recognizing** that you want it above all else. It is necessary that you **realize** you cannot do more. Do not attempt to give Spirit what is not asked, or you will add ego. Trust not your intentions. Trust your willingness. **Concentrate** only on this. Be not disturbed that shadows surround it. If you could come without them you would no need for the holy instant. Come not in arrogance, as if you must achieve the state. The miracle of the holy instant lies in your willingness to let be what is. In your willingness lies your **acceptance** of yourself as you were meant to be. Humility will never ask you to remain content with littleness. It requires that you be not content with less than greatness. **Difficulty with the holy instant arises from a conviction that you are not worthy.** It is impossible to make arrogant preparations for holiness. Willingness is needed to make it possible to teach you. If you maintain that you are unworthy of learning, you are interfering with the lesson by believing you must make the learner different. This belief confuses your role. Atonement cannot come to those who think they must first atone, but to those who offer it nothing more than simple willingness. **Remember** you made guilt, and your plan for escape has been to bring Atonement to it. It is fear that you add, if you try to prepare yourself. You need understand nothing. Salvation is easy because it asks nothing. If you believe the holy instant is difficult, it is because you have become the arbiter of the possible. Only in your mind is undoing needed.

Chapter 18 - The Passing Of The Dream

§5. The Happy Dream

If you can understand the difference between truth and illusion, atonement has no meaning. The holy instant, holy relationship and Spirit's teaching would have no purpose. They are all aspects of the plan to change your fear to happy dreams, from which you **awaken** to knowledge. Put yourself not in charge of this; you cannot distinguish between advance and retreat. Some of your greatest advances you have judged as failures, and

some of your deepest retreats you have evaluated as success. Never approach the holy instant after you tried to remove fear and hatred from your mind. That is its function. Your part is to offer willingness. You do not even **realize** you have **accepted** Spirit's purpose as your own, and you would merely bring unholy means to its accomplishment. The little faith it needed to change the purpose is all that is required to receive the means and use them. It is no dream to love your brother as yourself. Nor is your holy relationship a dream. All that remains of dreams within it is that it is still a special relationship. Whenever you feel the holiness of a relationship is threatened by anything, stop instantly and offer Spirit your willingness, in spite of fear, to exchange this instant for the holy one that you would rather have. It will never fail. Forget not your relationship is one, and so what threatens the peace of one is an equal threat to the other. The power of joining its blessing lies in the fact that it is now impossible for you or your brother to experience fear alone. Never believe this is necessary. **It comes to both at the request of either.** Who is saner at the time the threat is perceived should **remember** his indebtedness to the other and how much gratitude is due. Be glad that he can pay his debt by bringing happiness to both. Let him **remember** this.

Chapter 18 - The Passing Of The Dream

§6. Beyond Body

There is nothing outside. This you must learn. Heaven is an **awareness** of Oneness, and the knowledge there is nothing else. Belief that you could give and get something else, something outside, has cost you **awareness** of your Identity. You have done a stranger thing than you realize. You displaced your guilt from your mind to your body. You who think you hate your body deceive yourself. You hate your mind, for guilt has entered it, and it would remain separate from your brother. Minds are joined; bodies are not. By assigning the properties of the body to the mind separation is possible. Mind seems to be fragmented. Its guilt keeps it separate and is projected to the body, which suffers. Mind cannot attack, but it can make fantasies and direct the body to act them out. Unless the mind believes the body is acting out its fantasies, it attacks the body

by projection of guilt. **The mind is delusional.** It hurts the body. **The mind can deceive itself.** This it does when it believes it has attacked. Would you not have the instruments of separation reinterpreted as means for salvation, and used for purposes of love? Your perception of the body can clearly be sick, but project not this on the body. It is insane to use the body as a scapegoat for guilt, directing its attack and blaming it for what you wished it to do. It is still the fantasies you want, and they have nothing to do with what the body does. They make it a liability where it could be an asset. Fantasies have made your body a vulnerable enemy. How has this served you? You have done this to a thing that has no meaning, proclaiming it to be a dwelling. This guilt will stand between you and other minds. The minds are joined, but you do not yet identify. You see yourself locked in a prison, incapable of reaching out. You hate this, and would destroy it. The home of vengeance, the place you house hate, is illusion of self. The body limits communication that is an eternal property of mind. But the communication is internal. Mind reaches to itself. It does not go out. Within itself it has no limits, and there is nothing outside it. It encompasses you entirely; you within it and it within you. There is nothing else, anywhere or ever. The body is outside you, but seems to surround you. You can stretch out your hand and reach Heaven. You whose hands are joined have begun to reach beyond the body, but not outside yourself, to reach your Identity together. Could this be outside you? Many have experienced a sense of being transported beyond self. This liberation will far exceed the dream of freedom sometimes hoped for in special relationships. This is an escape from limitations. If you consider what this really entails, you **realize** it is an **unawareness** of the body, and a joining of self and something else. It becomes part of you. What happens is that you have given up the illusion of limited **awareness**, and lost fear of union. The love that replaces it extends to what freed you, and unites with it. While this lasts you are certain of your Identity, and would not limit it. This can occur regardless of physical distance between you and what you join with. The something can be anything and anywhere; a sight, a thought or even an idea without specific reference. You are not really lifted out; it cannot contain you. **You gain a sense of Self.** In this

release, you experience the lifting of barriers of time and space, sudden peace and lack of **awareness** of the body. It calls to you to be yourself.

Chapter 18 - The Passing Of The Dream

§7. I Need Do Nothing

You have faith in the body. What plans do you make that do not involve comfort or protection? This makes the body an end and not a means. No one accepts self who accepts sin as a goal. You have not met your one responsibility. There is one thing you have not done; you have not utterly forgotten the body. It faded at times from sight, but has not disappeared. You are not asked to let this happen for more than an instant, yet in this instant the miracle happens. Afterwards you see the body again, but never the same. At no instant does the body exist. It is always **remembered** or anticipated, but never experienced just now. Its past and future make it seem real. You may be attempting to follow a long road. A lifetime of meditation is unnecessary. Those means are time consuming, for they look to the future for release from a state of unworthiness. Your way will be different in means. A Holy relationship is a means of saving time. Now you need to **remember** you need do nothing. It is be profitable to **concentrate** on this. This is the special means this course is using to save time. You are not making use of the course if you use means which served others. To do anything involves the body. Withdraw the body's value from your mind. Here is the open door thru which you slip past centuries of effort. Here is time denied, past and future gone. To do nothing is to rest, and make a place within you where the body ceases to demand **attention**. Into this place Spirit comes and abides. There will always be this place of rest to which you can return. You will be aware of this quiet center of the storm rather than all its raging activity. From this center you will be directed how to use the body sinlessly. It is this center from which the body is absent, that will keep it in your **awareness**.

Chapter 18 - The Passing Of The Dream

§8. The Little Garden

It is your **awareness** of the body that makes love seem limited. The body is a limit on love. Can you who see yourself within a body know yourself as an idea? Everything you **recognize** you identify with externals. The body cannot know. You limit **awareness** to its tiny senses; you see not the grandeur that surrounds you. The body is a fence around a little part of a glorious idea. It draws a circle, proclaiming that within it is your kingdom. In this kingdom ego rules. To defend this speck of dust it bids you fight against the universe. This fragment of your mind is such a tiny part that, could you appreciate the whole, you would see that it is like the smallest sunbeam to the sun. In its arrogance, this tiny beam decided it is the sun. Think how alone is this little illusion, holding itself apart. The sun becomes the sunbeam's enemy. Without the sun the sunbeam would be gone. Such is the strange position in which a world inhabited by bodies seems to be. Each body seems to house a separate mind, each self-contained. This little aspect is no different from the whole. It leads no separate life. Do not accept this fenced-off aspect as yourself. This little self is not your kingdom. Love knows no bodies. Its total lack of limit is its meaning. In your tiny kingdom you have so little! Should it not be there that you would call on love to enter? Everyone you welcome will bring love with him. They enter one by one into this holy place. Under its beneficence your little garden will expand, and reach out to everyone, who has grown too weary to go on alone. Go out and find them, for they bring your Self with them. Lead them to your garden, and receive their blessing. Asking for everything, you will receive it.

Chapter 18 - The Passing Of The Dream

§9. The Two Worlds

You have been told to bring darkness to light, and guilt to holiness. You have been told that error must be corrected at its source. It is this tiny part of yourself that Spirit needs. Let Spirit remove it from the withered kingdom in which you set it off, guarded by attack. Be not separate, for the One Who surrounds it has brought union to you. How is this done? It is simple, being based on what this little kingdom really is. The barren and

lifeless are seen only thru the body's eyes. Its bleak sight is distorted, and the messages it sends are fragmented. **Insane messages return to the mind that made it.** The messages bear witness to this world. You sent the messengers to bring this to you. Everything these messages relay to you is external. No messages speak of what lies beneath, for it is not the body that can speak of this. Its eyes perceive it not; its senses remain unaware of it. The circle of fear lies just below the level the body sees, and seems to be the foundation on which the world is based. Here is illusion, twisted thought, attack, vengeance and betrayal made to keep guilt in place, so the world could keep it hidden. Its shadow rises to hold its manifestations. It bring despair and loneliness. Its intensity is veiled by its coverings, and kept apart from what was made to keep it hidden. The body cannot see this, for the body is for its protection, and depends on keeping it not seen. The body's eyes will never look on it. Yet they see what it dictates. The body remains guilt's messenger, and acts as it directs as long as you believe guilt is real. The reality of guilt is the illusion that seems to make it opaque and a foundation for ego's thought system. Its thinness is not apparent until you see the light behind it. This heavy- seeming barrier is like a bank of low dark clouds. Its appearance is wholly illusion. It has no power to hold back anyone willing to climb above. It is not strong enough to hold a feather. Try but to touch it and it disappears; attempt to grasp it and your hands hold nothing. Yet in this cloud it is easy to see a whole world rising. Figures move about, actions seem real, and forms shift from lovely to grotesque. Back and forth they go, as long as you play make-believe. So should it be with the dark clouds of guilt, no more impenetrable and no more substantial. You will not bruise yourself against them traveling thru. Let your Guide teach you their unsubstantial nature as he leads you past them, for beneath them is a world of light where they cast no shadows. The shadows lie upon the world beyond them, still further from the light. Yet from them to the light their shadows cannot fall. The world of light is where guilt meets forgiveness. Here the world outside is seen new, without the shadow of guilt. Here is a new perception, where everything is shining with innocence and cleansed of every evil thought. Here there is no attack and you are always welcome. **Here is your innocence, waiting to**

protect you, and make you ready for the final step. Yet even forgiveness is not the end. Forgiveness does make lovely, but does not create. It is the messenger of love and not its Source. This course will lead to knowledge, but knowledge itself is still beyond the scope of our curriculum. Nor is there any need for us to try to speak of what must forever lie beyond words. We need **remember** only that whoever attains the real world, beyond which learning cannot go, will go beyond it, but in a different way.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§1. Healing And Faith

Peace without faith will never be attained. Faith includes everyone. Every situation is an opportunity to heal. Joining in a united purpose makes purpose real. The body is healed because you joined the Mind in which all healing rests. The body cannot heal, as it cannot make itself sick. Its health depends entirely on how the mind perceives it. A segment of the mind can see itself as separated. When this occurs the body becomes its weapon, demonstrating that separation has occurred. The body becomes an instrument of illusion, seeing what is not there and behaving insanely. Faithlessness leads straight to illusions. Faithlessness is perception of a body. If you see a brother as a body, you have established a condition in which uniting with him is impossible. Your faithlessness to him has separated you, and kept you both from healing. Faith is the opposite of faithlessness. The difference in how they operate is not apparent. Faithlessness always attacks; faith removes limitations. Both cannot be perceived in the same place. Understand how this concealment has hurt your mind, and how confused your identification has become because of it! You do not see the devastation wrought by faithlessness, for it seems justified by its results. By withholding faith you see what is unworthy of it. To have faith is to heal. By faith, you offer the gift of freedom from the past. You do not use anything your brother has done before to condemn him now. You freely choose to overlook errors, looking past all barriers between yourself and him, and seeing them as one. You see your faith justified. Faith is the opposite of fear and the acknowledgment of union. It is the messenger of new perception. Faith arises from Spirit's perception, and is the sign you share it.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§2. Sin Versus Error

It is essential that error not be seen as sin. This distinction makes salvation possible. Error can be corrected, and the wrong made right. Sin would be irreversible. Belief in sin is based on the conviction that minds can attack. The mind is guilty, and

forever so remains. Sin calls for punishment for correction. A belief that punishment is correction is insane. Sin says that guilt is justified. Sin is the grand illusion underlying all of ego's grandiosity. A tenet in ego's insane religion is that sin is not error but truth, and innocence deceives. Purity is arrogance, and the self as sinful is holiness. Any attempt to reinterpret sin as error is indefensible to ego. The idea of sin is wholly sacrosanct to its thought system, and quite unapproachable except with reverence and awe. It is the most holy concept in ego's system; powerful, wholly true, and protected with every defense at its disposal. Here lies its best defense, which all the others serve. Here is its armor, protection, and the purpose of the special relationship in its interpretation. It can be said that ego made its world on sin. Only in such a world could everything be upside down. This is the strange illusion that makes the clouds of guilt seem impenetrable. The solidness that this world's foundation seems to have is found in this. For sin has changed creation to an ideal ego wants; a world it rules, made of bodies, mindless and capable of corruption and decay. If this is a mistake, it can be undone easily by truth. Any mistake can be corrected, if truth be left to judge it. It is impossible to have faith in sin. It is possible to have faith that a mistake can be corrected. Perhaps you would be tempted to agree with ego that it is better to be sinful than mistaken. Yet think carefully before you make this choice. Approach it not lightly, for it is the choice of hell or Heaven.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§3. The Unreality Of Sin

The attraction of guilt is in sin, not error. Sin is repeated because of this attraction. Fear can become so acute that sin is denied the acting out. While the guilt is attractive the mind suffers. Sin is an essential part of what ego thinks you are. Ego does not think it possible that love, not fear, is called upon by sin. Ego brings sin to fear, demanding punishment. Punishment is guilt's protection, for what deserves punishment must have been done. Punishment is the preserver of sin. An error is not attractive. What you see clearly as a mistake you want corrected. Sometimes a sin is repeated over and over, with obviously

distressing results, but without the loss of its appeal. Suddenly, you change it from sin to mistake. Now you will not repeat it; you will merely stop and let it go, unless the guilt remains. Then you will change the form of sin, granting it was an error, but keeping it uncorrectable. This is not a change in perception, for it is sin that calls for punishment. Mistakes are for correction, and call for nothing else. Every mistake is a call for love. What is sin? A mistake you keep hidden; a call for help that you keep unanswered. Time is eternity. Spirit can teach you to look on time differently and see beyond it, but not while you believe in sin. Sin is a belief that perception is unchangeable, and the mind must accept what it is told thru it. The power that could change perception is kept impotent. If you look with a smile upon your lips and a blessing on your sight, you will not see sin long. In the new perception the mind corrects it when it seems to be seen. Errors are quickly **recognized** and quickly given to correction. You will be healed of sin the instant you give it no power over a brother. Forget what you have seen, and raise your eyes in faith to what you now can see.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§4. The Obstacles To Peace

As peace extends from deep in you to embrace all and give rest, it encounters many obstacles. **Some of them you will impose.** Others seem to rise from elsewhere; from your brothers, and aspects of the world outside. Yet peace will gently cover them. The extension of Spirit's purpose from your relationship to others, bringing them gently in, will extend to every aspect of your lives, surrounding each of you with glowing happiness and the calm **awareness** of complete protection. You will carry its message of love and safety and freedom to everyone who draws nigh unto your temple, where healing waits for him. You will not wait to give him this, for you will call to him and he will answer. You will draw him in and give him rest, as it was given you. The peace that already lies deep within must expand, and flow across the obstacles you placed. This you will do, for nothing undertaken with Spirit remains unfinished. You can indeed be sure of nothing you see outside. You can be sure of this: Spirit asks that you offer a resting place where you will

rest. He answered you, and entered your relationship. Would you not now return his graciousness, and enter into a relationship with him? It is he who offered your relationship the gift of holiness, without which it would have been impossible to appreciate your brother. The gratitude you owe to him he asks but that you receive for him. When you look with gentle graciousness upon a brother, you are beholding him. You are looking where he is, and not apart from him. You cannot see Spirit, but you can see your brothers truly. The light in them will show you all you need to see. When the peace in you has been extended to encompass everyone, Spirit's function here will be accomplished. What need is there for seeing, then?

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§5. First Obstacle: Desire To Get Rid Of It

Peace cannot extend unless you keep it. You are the center from which it radiates, to call others in. You are its dwelling place from which it gently reaches out, but never leaves. If it would spread across creation, it must begin with you, and from you reach everyone, and bring rest by joining you. Would you want peace to be homeless? What do you think it must dispossess to dwell with you? What seems to be the cost you are unwilling to pay? The barrier still stands between you and your brother. Would you reinforce it? Why let a wall of dust stand between your brothers and salvation? **This remnant of attack you cherish against each other is the first obstacle peace encounters in going forth.** Spirit's purpose rests in peace within you. You are still unwilling to let it join you. What you would contain behind your barrier and keep separate from your brother seems mightier than the entire universe. Fear not this little obstacle. Peace will flow across it, and join you without hindrance. Salvation cannot be withheld from you. You cannot choose apart from this. You have no purpose apart from your brother. The wall will fall away quietly beneath the wings of peace. Peace will send its messengers from you to the entire world, and barriers will fall away before their coming. To overcome the world is no more difficult than to surmount your little wall. For in the miracle of your holy relationship every miracle is contained. There is no order of difficulty in miracles,

for they are all the same. Each is a gentle winning over from the appeal of guilt to the appeal of love. How can this fail to be accomplished, wherever it is undertaken? Guilt can raise no real barriers against it. All that seems to stand between you must fall away because of the appeal you answered.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§6. The Attraction Of Guilt

The attraction of guilt produces fear of love. Love would never look on guilt at all. It is the nature of love to look on only the truth, with which it unites in holy union and completion. As love looks past fear, fear must not see love. Love contains the end of guilt, as fear depends on it. Overlooking guilt completely, it sees no fear. Being without attack, it cannot be afraid. Fear is attracted to what love sees not, and believes what the other looks on does not exist. Each has messengers, which return to them with messages in the language in which they asked. Love's messengers are gentle, and return with gentle messages. Messengers of fear are ordered to seek guilt, and cherish every scrap of evil they find. Perception cannot obey two masters asking for two different things. The attraction that guilt holds for fear is wholly absent from love's perception. What love would look upon is meaningless to fear, and quite invisible. **This depends on the emotion called on to return with word of what they saw.** No little shred of guilt escapes their hungry eyes. In their savage search for sin they pounce on any living thing they see. Spirit has given you love's messengers to send instead of those you trained thru fear. They are eager to return to you what they hold dear. If you send them forth, they will see only the blameless and the beautiful, the gentle and the kind. They will be careful to let no act of charity, no expression of forgiveness, no little breath of love escape their notice. They will return with the happy things they found, to share lovingly with you. They offer you salvation. Theirs are messages of safety, for they see the world as kind. The world will be transformed before your sight, cleansed of guilt and brushed with beauty. The world contains no fear that you laid not upon it.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§7. Second Obstacle: Belief Body Is Valuable

Peace must first surmount the obstacle of your desire to get rid of it. If the attraction of guilt holds sway, peace is not wanted. The second obstacle is the belief that the body is valuable for what it offers. Here the attraction of guilt is made. This is the value you think peace would rob you of. It is this for which you would deny a home to peace. This sacrifice you feel to be too great to make. Is it a sacrifice, or a release? What has the body given you that can justify your belief that in it lies salvation? Is it a sacrifice to be removed from what can suffer? Spirit does not demand you sacrifice hope of the body's pleasure; it has no hope of pleasure. Peace is extended from you only to the eternal, and it reaches out from the eternal in you. It flows across all else. The second obstacle is no more solid than the first. You want neither to get rid of peace nor limit it. What are these obstacles that you would interpose between peace and its going forth? Just barriers you place between your will and its accomplishment. You want communion, not a feast of fear. You want salvation, not the pain of guilt. When you agreed to join, you acknowledged this is so. This has no cost, it has release from cost. **You have paid very dearly for illusions, and nothing you have paid for brought you peace.** Are you not glad that sacrifice cannot be asked of you? The end of guilt is in your hands. Would you stop now to look for guilt in your brother? From your holy relationship truth proclaims the truth, and love looks on itself. Send forth to the entire world the joyous message and all the world will answer.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§8. The Attraction Of Pain

Your little part is to give Spirit the whole idea of sacrifice. **Accept** peace instead, without the limits that would hold its extension back. If peace is homeless, so are you. Is this your wish? Would you forever wander in search of peace? Would you invest your hope of peace in what must fail? Faith in the eternal is always justified, for the eternal is forever kind and loving. It will accept you wholly, and give peace. Yet it can unite only with what already is at peace in you. The body can bring you neither

peace nor turmoil; nor joy, nor pain. It has no purpose of itself, but only what is given to it. **The body becomes whatever the means is for reaching the goal that you assign.** Peace and guilt are both conditions of the mind. Think which one is compatible with you. This is your choice, and it is free. What you think you are can never be apart from it. The body is the betrayer of faith. In it is disillusionment, but only if you ask what it cannot give. Can your mistake be reasonable grounds for depression? You have not sinned, but you have been quite mistaken in what is faithful. The correction of your mistake will give you grounds for faith. It is impossible to seek for pleasure thru the body and not find pain. It is essential that this be understood. Equating yourself with the body is an invitation to pain. For it invites fear to enter and become your purpose. The attraction of guilt enters with it, and what fear directs the body to do is painful. Under the order of fear the body will pursue guilt. This is the attraction of pain. Ruled by this perception, the body is the servant of pain, seeking it dutifully and obeying the idea that pain is pleasure.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§9. Third Obstacle: The Attraction Of Death

To you and to your brother, in whose special relationship Spirit entered, it is given to release and be released from the dedication to death. For it was offered you, and you **accepted**. You must learn still more about this strange devotion, for it contains the third obstacle that peace must flow across. No one can die unless he chooses death. What seems to be the fear of death is really its attraction. Guilt, too, is feared and fearful. Yet it could have no hold at all except on those who are attracted to it and seek it out. So it is with death. Made by ego, its dark shadow falls across all living things, because ego is the enemy of life. Yet a shadow cannot kill. What is a shadow to the living? They but walk past and are gone. But what of those whose dedication is not to live; the black-draped sinners, ego's mournful chorus, plodding heavily away from life, dragging their chains and marching in a slow procession that honors their grim master, lord of death? **Touch any of them with the gentle hands of forgiveness, and watch the chains fall away,**

along with yours. See him throw aside the black robe he was wearing to his funeral, and hear him laugh at death. The sentence sin imposes on him he can escape thru your forgiveness. This is no arrogance. It is the Will of God. What is impossible to you who chose his will as yours? What is death to you? Your dedication is not to death, nor to its master. When you **accept** Spirit's purpose in place of ego's you renounce death, exchanging it for life. We know an idea leaves not its source. Death is the result of the thought we call ego, as surely as life is the result of the Thought of God.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§10. The Incorruptible Body

From ego came sin and death, in opposition to life and innocence. Where can such opposition lie but in the sick minds of the insane, dedicated to madness and set against peace? God, who created neither sin nor death, wills not that you be bound by them. He knows of neither sin nor its results. The shrouded figures with you are not following his will. What is this body they would bury? A body dedicated to death, symbol of corruption, sacrificed to sin to keep itself alive; damned by everyone who looks upon it as himself. You have another dedication that would keep the body incorruptible as long as it is useful for your holy purpose. The body itself does nothing. Of itself it is neither corruptible nor incorruptible. It is the result of a mad idea of a corruption that can be corrected. You who are dedicated to the incorruptible have the power to release from all corruption. What better way is there to teach the fundamental principle in a course on miracles, than by showing you that the one that seems the hardest can be accomplished first? **The body can only serve your purpose.** As you look on it, so will it seem to be. Those who fear death see not how they call to it. The retreat to death is not the end of conflict. The obstacle that peace must flow across seems to be very great. In it lie all ego's secrets, all its deception, all its sick ideas and imaginings. Free it from the merciless orders you laid upon it, and forgive what you ordered it to do. The fear of death will go as its appeal is yielded to love's attraction. The end of sin sits quietly in the safety of your relationship, ready to grow into a mighty force. The infancy

of salvation is carefully guarded by love, preserved from every thought that would attack it. What fear can enter and disturb the peace of sinlessness?

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§11. Fourth Obstacles: The Fear Of God

What will you see without fear of death? What will you feel and think if death holds no attraction? You would **remember** the Creator of life. As this memory rises in your mind, peace must surmount a final obstacle, after which is salvation completed. Here your world ends. The fourth obstacle to be surmounted hangs like a heavy veil. This dark veil makes the face of Christ like a leper. This is the darkest veil, upheld by a belief in death and protected by its attraction. The dedication to death is but the vow to ego never to lift this veil, nor suspect it is there. This is the bargain made to keep what lies beyond the veil forever blotted out. Here is a promise not to allow union to call you out of separation ... the fear of God. The belief in death seems to save you. If it were gone, what could you fear but life? The attraction of death makes life seem ugly and cruel. You are no more afraid of death than of ego. They are your friends. For in your alliance with them you agree not to let the fear of God be lifted, so you could look upon the face of Christ. All obstacles peace must flow across are surmounted in the same way; the fear that raised it yields to the love beyond, and so fear is gone. The desire to get rid of peace and drive Spirit away fades in the presence of quiet **recognition**. Exaltation of the body is given up in favor of spirit. The appeal of death is lost as love's attraction calls to you. From beyond each of the obstacles to love, love itself has called. Each has been surmounted by the power of the attraction of what lies beyond. If you look on this and let the veil be lifted, they are gone forever. Look on it, open-eyed, and you will never believe that you are at the mercy of things beyond you and thoughts that come to you against your will. What attracts you from beyond the veil is deep within you.

Chapter 19 - The Attainment Of Peace

§12. The Lifting Of The Veil

Forget not that you and your brother came this far together. It was surely not ego that led you. No obstacle to peace is surmounted thru ego's help. It would not have you learn it has no power. Lift your eyes in the innocence of forgiveness of each other's illusions. No one can stand before this obstacle alone, for one cannot reach this far unless his brother walked beside him. Stand here and tremble not. Let us join in a holy instant, here where the purpose has led you. Nor is it possible to look on this too soon. This is the place to which everyone must come when ready. Once he has found his brother he is ready. Merely to reach the place is not enough. A journey without a purpose is meaningless, and when over it makes no sense. How can you know it is over unless you **realize** its purpose is accomplished? It is here you choose to look upon it or wander on, only to return and choose again. Only the sane can look on insanity with compassion. Only if they share fear does it seem fearful, and you share in it until you look upon your brother with faith, love and tenderness. Before complete forgiveness you still stand unforgiving. **Those you do not forgive you fear.** No one reaches love with fear beside him. This brother who stands beside you seems to be a stranger. In his hands is your salvation. You see madness, which you share. Would you hold his sins against him, or **accept** his gift? Is this giver of salvation your friend or enemy? Choose which, **remembering** that you receive according to your choice. Whom you forgive is free, and what you give you share. Join him in gladness, and remove all trace of guilt from his tortured mind. Everyone gives as he receives, but he must choose what he receives. He will **recognize** his choice by what he gives, and what is given him.

Chapter 20 - The Vision Of Holiness

§1. Holy Week

This is the celebration of the **acceptance** of truth. Let us not spend this holy week brooding on crucifixion, but happily in celebration. Easter is the sign of peace, not pain. **A slain Christ has no meaning.** But a risen Christ becomes the symbol of the Son of God's forgiveness on himself; the sign he looks upon himself as healed. This week begins with palms and ends with lilies, the holy sign the Son of God is innocent. Let no dark sign of crucifixion intervene between the journey and its purpose; between **acceptance** of truth and its expression. We celebrate life, not death. We honor perfect purity and not sins. Offer your brother the gift of lilies, not the crown of thorns; the gift of love and not fear. You stand beside your brother, thorns in one hand and lilies in the other, uncertain which to give. Join now and throw away the thorns, offering the lilies to replace them. A week is short, and yet this holy week is the symbol of the whole journey the Son of God has undertaken. He started with the sign of victory, the promise of resurrection, already given. Let him not wander into temptation of crucifixion. Help him to go in peace, with the light of innocence lighting his way to release. Hold him not back with nails when his redemption is near. If you see glimpses of the face of Christ behind the veil, you will behold your brother's face and **recognize** it. I was a stranger and you took me in, not knowing who I was. For your gift of lilies you will know. In your forgiveness of this stranger, alien to you and yet your ancient Friend lies his release and your redemption with him. Look on your risen Friend, and celebrate his holiness.

Chapter 20 - The Vision Of Holiness

§2. The Gift Of Lilies

Look on the trinkets that hang on the body, things made for eyes to see, offerings made for pleasure. **Remember** all these were made to make what you hate seem lovely. You employ a hated thing to draw a brother to you, and to attract his body's eyes. You offer thorns, trying to justify your own interpretation of its value by his acceptance. The gift proclaims his worthlessness, as his acceptance acknowledges the lack of value

he places on himself. Gifts are not made thru bodies, if they are truly given and received. Bodies cannot offer, accept, hold out or take. Only the mind can value, and only the mind decides on what it would receive and give. Every gift it offers depends on what it wants. They exchange gifts, offering and receiving what their minds judge to be worthy. Each gift is an evaluation of receiver and giver. Forget not that it is your savior to whom the gift is offered. **Offer him nails and you are crucified.** Offer him lilies and it is yourself you free. If it be thorns whose points gleam in a blood-red light, the body is your chosen home and it is separation that you offer. Yet the thorns are gone. You look still with the body's eyes, and they see but thorns. Yet you have asked for and received another sight. Those who **accept** Spirit's purpose as their own share also his vision. Spirit's vision is no idle gift, no plaything to be tossed about and laid aside. Hear this carefully, think not it but a dream, a careless thought to play with, or a toy you would pick up from time to time and then put by. If you do, so will it be to you. You have the vision to look past all illusions. Your chosen home is the other side, beyond the veil. You will not see it with the body's eyes. All you need you have. The lamp is lit in both of you for one another.

Chapter 20 - The Vision Of Holiness

§3. Sin As An Adjustment

The belief in sin is an adjustment. Adjustment is a shift in perception, a belief made different. Knowledge needs no adjustment and is lost in any shift. This reduces it at once to mere perception that doubt has entered. To this condition adjustments are necessary. Who need to adjust to truth, which calls only on what is? Adjustments of any kind are of ego. It is ego's belief that relationships depend on adjustments. Ego is a self-appointed mediator, making adjustments necessary and placing them between those who would meet. This makes it difficult to **recognize** your holy relationship. The holy do not interfere with truth, not being afraid of it. In truth they **recognize** their holiness, without attempting to adjust themselves. So they see it in them. **You make your world, adjust to it, and adjust it to you.** Do you like what you have made? You thread your timid way, alone and frightened, hoping

death will wait a little longer. **You made this up.** It is a picture of what you think you are. These are the fear thoughts that adjust themselves to a world made fearful by adjustments. Have you wondered what the world is really like; how it would look thru happy eyes? **The world as you see it is only a judgment on yourself.** It is not there at all. Yet judgment justifies and makes it real. This sickly picture is preserved by ego, whose image it is, and placed outside. To this world you must adjust as long as you believe this picture is outside, and has you at its mercy. This world is merciless, and were it outside you, you should be fearful. The world the holy see is beautiful because they see their innocence. They did not tell it what it was; they did not make adjustments.

Chapter 20 - The Vision Of Holiness

§4. Entering The Ark

Nothing can hurt you unless you give it the power to do so. You give power as this world interprets giving; to give is to lose. Sin has results as this world sees them, sickness and death, misery and pain. These things have not occurred because Spirit sees them not, and gives no power to their source. Thus he would keep you free of them. Being without illusion of what you are, Spirit merely gives everything to God, Who has already given and received all that is true. The untrue he has neither received nor given. Sin has no place in Heaven, where its results are alien and cannot enter. Therein lays your need to see your brother sinless. In him is Heaven. See sin in him, and Heaven is lost to you. See him as he is, and what is yours shines from him to you. It lies in him to overlook your mistakes, and therein lays his own salvation. So it is with yours. It is the reawakening in minds that established other laws. Your insane laws were made to guarantee that you would make mistakes, and give them power by accepting the results as your just due. What could this be but madness? **Those who choose freedom experience its results.** Their freedom is established and maintained. In your part lies all of it, without which no part is complete. The ark of peace is entered two by two, yet the beginning of another world goes with them. Each holy relationship must enter here, now that it shares his purpose. As this purpose is fulfilled, a new

world rises in which sin cannot enter. This is the purpose given you. Think not that your forgiveness of your brother serves but you two alone. The whole new world rests in the hands of every two who enter to rest. Nothing you need will be denied you.

Chapter 20 - The Vision Of Holiness

§5. Heralds Of Eternity

With joining the end of time is brought near. Each miracle of joining is a herald of eternity. No one who has a single purpose, unified and sure, can be afraid. Those who share purpose can be as one. Each herald of eternity sings the end of sin and fear. Each speaks in time of what is far beyond. Two voices together call to the hearts of all. In that single heartbeat is the unity of love proclaimed and given welcome. Peace to your holy relationship. You give to one another for everyone, and in your gift everyone is made glad. It is impossible to overestimate your brother's value. Only ego does this, but all it means is that it wants the other for itself, and values him too little. What is inestimable clearly cannot be evaluated. Do you **recognize** the fear that rises from the meaningless attempt to judge what lies so far beyond your judgment you cannot even see it? Judge not what is invisible to you or you will never see it, but wait in **patience** for its coming. It will be given you to see your brother's worth when all you want for him is peace. **What you want for him you will receive.** What would you want except his offering? Vision or judgment is your choice, but never both. Your brother's body is as little use to you as it is to him. When it is used as Spirit teaches, it has no function. Minds needs not the body to communicate. The sight that sees the body has no use which serves the purpose of a holy relationship. While you look upon your brother thus, the means and end have not been brought in line. Why should it take so many holy instants to let this be accomplished? There is but one. You look on each holy instant as different points in time. All that it ever held is here now. The past takes nothing, and the future will add no more.

Chapter 20 - The Vision Of Holiness

§6. The Temple Of Holy Spirit

The meaning of you lies solely in the relationship with your Creator. If it were elsewhere it would rest on contingency, but there is nothing else. This is wholly loving and forever. You invented an unholy relationship. Real relationship is one of union and continuity. The one made is partial and self-centered. One created is self-encompassing and self-extending. The one made is self-destructive and limiting. Nothing shows the contrast better than the experience of both a holy and an unholy relationship. The first is based on love, and rests undisturbed. Any relationship in which the body enters is based on idolatry. Love wishes to be known and shared. It has nothing it would keep apart. Idols do not share; they accept, but never return. They can be loved, but cannot love. Any relationship which they enter has lost its meaning. They will smile on no one, and those who smile on them they do not see. The body is ego's weapon to seek power thru relationship. It wants them for the offerings on which its idols thrive. Homeless, ego seeks as many bodies as it can collect, and establish temples to itself. Spirit's temple is not a body, but a relationship. The body is isolated; a meaningless enclosure carefully protected. Here the unholy relationship escapes reality. Here it is safe, for here love cannot enter. Spirit does not build temples where love can never be. You cannot make the body Spirit's temple; it will never be the seat of love. This place of darkness is not your home. Lay aside the body and quietly transcend it, rising to welcome what you really want. Look not back on what you have **awakened** from. No illusions can attract the mind that has transcended them, and left them far behind.

Chapter 20 - The Vision Of Holiness

§7. The Consistency Of Means And End

Being simple and direct, this course has nothing that is not consistent. Seeming inconsistencies, or any parts you find difficult, indicate that means and end are still discrepant. This produces discomfort. This need not be. This course requires almost nothing of you. The period of discomfort following the change in a relationship from sin to holiness may be almost

over. To the extent you experience it you are refusing to leave the means to him who changed the purpose. You **recognize** you want the goal. Are you not willing to **accept** the means? If you are not, admit that you are inconsistent. How can one be sincere and say, I want this above all else, yet I still do not want to learn? If you ever hesitate, it is only because the purpose frightens you. **Remember**, for otherwise you will make the error of believing the means are difficult. How can they be difficult if they are merely given you? They guarantee the goal, and they are perfectly in line with it. **Remember** that if you think they are impossible, your wanting of the purpose has been shaken. If a goal is possible to reach, the means to do so must be possible. It is impossible to see your brother as sinless and yet to look upon him as a body. Holiness is merely the result of letting the effects of sin be lifted, so what was always true is **recognized**. To see a sinless body is impossible, for holiness is positive and the body is neutral. It is not sinful, but neither is it sinless. The body is the means by which ego tries to make the unholy seem real. The unholy instant is the time of bodies. It is attained in illusion, and so the illusion of a brother as a body is in keeping with the purpose of unholiness. Seeing adapts to wishes, for sight is always secondary to desire. If you see the body, you have chosen judgment and not vision. **You either see or not**. Who sees a brother's body has laid a judgment on him, and sees him not. In the darkness of sin he is invisible. He can be but imagined in the darkness, and it is here the illusions you hold do not hold up to reality. Here illusions and reality are kept separated. Here illusions are never brought to truth, and always hidden. Here, in darkness, your brother's reality is imagined as a body. There is a difference between this vain imagining and vision. The difference lies not in them, but in purpose. Both are but means, each one appropriate to the end for which it is employed. Neither can serve the purpose of the other, for each one is a choice of purpose, employed on its behalf. The means seem real because the goal is valued. Judgment has no value unless the goal is sin. The body cannot be looked on except thru judgment. How can a holy relationship achieve its purpose thru sin? **Judgment you taught yourself; vision is learned**. Attempt to see him not in darkness, for your imaginings about him will seem real there. You closed your eyes

to shut him out. Such was your purpose, and while this purpose seems to have a meaning, the means for its attainment will be evaluated as worth the seeing, and so you will not see. Your question should not be, "How can I see my brother without the body?" Ask only, "Do I really wish to see him sinless?" As you ask, forget not that his sinlessness is your escape from fear. The means is vision. What the seeing look on is sinless. No one who loves can judge, and what he sees is free of condemnation. What he sees he did not make, for it was given him to see, as was the vision that made his seeing possible.

Chapter 20 - The Vision Of Holiness

§8. The Vision Of Sinlessness

Vision will come at first in glimpses, but they will be enough to show what is given to you who sees a brother sinless. Truth is restored thru desire, as it was lost to you thru desire for something else. Open the holy place and what was never lost will quietly return. Vision would not be necessary had judgment not been made. Desire its undoing, and it is undone. Rejoice in what is yours for the asking, and think not that you need make means or end. Vision is freely given to those who ask to see. Peace will come to all who ask with real desire and sincerity, shared with Spirit. This is your purpose, and the vision is ready. **You have the vision that enables you to see.** A body is a sign of weakness, vulnerability and loss of power. Would you turn for help to the helpless? Judgment will make you feel weak. All is redeemed when looked on with vision. Everything falls gently into place by certain sight. Destructiveness becomes benign. Sin is turned to blessing. What can the body's eyes perceive, with power to correct? All that could save you, you never see. Judgment is a senseless means to play an idle game in your imagination. What if you **recognized** this world as a hallucination? What if you really understood you made it up? Could you have faith in what you see? Hallucinations disappear when they are recognized. Believe not and they are gone. **All you need to do is to recognize that you did this.** Once you **accept** this simple fact and **accept** the power, you are released. Only two purposes are possible. One is sin, the other holiness. **What you choose is what you see.** All meaning you

give the world outside reflects the sight you saw within. Vision is the means by which Spirit translates nightmares into happy dreams. Never think that there is something else for you to see.

Chapter 21 - Reason & Perception

§1. Introduction

Projection makes perception. **The world you see is what you gave it, nothing more.** Though it is no more than that, it is not less. Therefore, to you it is important. It is the witness to your state of mind, the outside picture of an inward condition. As a man thinks, so does he perceive! Seek not to change the world, but choose to change your mind about the world. Perception is a result and not a cause. That is why order of difficulty in miracles is meaningless. Everything looked upon with vision is healed and holy. Nothing perceived without it means anything. Where there is no meaning, there is chaos. Damnation is your judgment on yourself, and you will project this upon the world. See it as damned, and all you see is what you did to hurt the Son of God. If you behold disaster and catastrophe, you are surely crucifying him. If you only see holiness, you joined the Will of God to set him free. There is no choice that lies between these decisions. You see the witness to the choice you made, and learn from this to **recognize** which one you chose.

Chapter 21 - Reason & Perception

§2. The Forgotten Song

The world of the sightless must be imagined. What it really looks like is unknown to them. They infer what is from indirect evidence; and reconstruct as they stumble. So it is with you. **You do not see.** It is not necessary to imagine what the world looks like. It must be seen before you **recognize** it. **Judgment gives false direction.** Gentle lessons are joyous, and **remembered** gladly. You are not a happy learner yet. You are uncertain that vision gives more than judgment. The blind are used to their world made by their adjustments. They think they know their way. Everything they think reminds them they are bitterly deprived. They try to reach each other, and fail. They adjust to loneliness. Listen, and try to think if you **remember** what we speak of. Listen; perhaps catch a hint of a state not quite forgotten, and the place in which you heard **unremembered**. Not the whole song has stayed with you, just a little melody. You **remember** how lovely the song, where you

heard it, and how you loved those who listened with you. You could **remember**, yet you fear, believing you will lose the world you learned since. You know nothing in the world you learned is half as dear as this. Listen, see if you **remember** a song you knew long ago and held dearer than any you have taught yourself to cherish since. [This is your song of you as a joyous innocent child.] Here is the memory of what you are. **Accept** vision that shows you this, and not the body. A miracle is this **remembering**. The light in one **awakens** it in all.

Chapter 21 - Reason & Perception

§3. The Responsibility For Sight

So little is being asked of you to learn this course. It is the same small willingness you need so to have your whole relationship transformed to joy; the tiny change of mind by which crucifixion is changed to resurrection. Being true, it is so simple it cannot fail to be understood. If you choose against it now it will not be because it is obscure, but rather that this little cost seems to be too much to pay for peace. This is all you need do for vision and release from pain. Say this, and mean it with no reservations, for here the power of salvation lies:

I am responsible for what I see.

I choose the feelings I experience.

Everything that happens to me I ask for and receive.

Be happy, and you give the power of decision to Spirit. Even this is given to you to give yourself. Withhold it, and you keep the world as now you see it. Give it away, and everything you see goes with it. Never was so much given for so little. In the holy instant this exchange emerges. Here is the world you do not want brought to the one you do. For this, the power of your wanting must **recognize**. You must **accept** its strength. You must perceive that what is strong enough to make a world can let it go, and can **accept** correction. The world you see is the witness you were right. This witness is insane. You convinced yourself that what it saw was true. **You did this to yourself.** Spirit can give you faith in holiness and vision. You are not asked to make or do what is beyond your understanding. All you are asked to do is to let it in; to stop interference with what will happen of itself. **Recognize** again the presence of what you

thought you gave away. The holy instant is not of creation, but of **recognition**. This **recognition** only ever comes of vision and suspended judgment. Only then it is possible to look within and see clearly what must be there, wholly independent of inference. Undoing is not your task, but it is up to you to welcome it. Faith and desire go hand in hand, for everyone believes in only what he wants. Wishful thinking is how ego deals with what it wants. There is no better demonstration of the power of your wanting, and therefore of faith, to make its goals seem real and possible. Faith in the unreal leads to adjustments of reality to make it fit the goal of madness. The goal of sin induces a fearful world to justify its purpose. **What you desire, you see.** If its reality is false, you uphold it by not realizing the adjustments you introduced. When vision is denied, total confusion of cause and effect is inevitable. The purpose now becomes to keep the cause obscure, and make effect appear to be a cause. See what proves otherwise and you deny your whole reality. Grant that everything that seems to stand between you, you made in secret, and the instant of release has now come. Its effects are gone, because its source has been uncovered. It is its seeming independence of its source that keeps you prisoner.

Chapter 21 - Reason & Perception

§4. Faith, Belief And Vision

All special relationships have sin as their goal. They bargain with reality. To bargain is to limit, and a brother with whom you have a limited relationship, you hate. You will attempt to keep the bargain, demanding payment of yourself or of the other. You attempt to ease the guilt that comes from your purpose. Spirit must change its purpose to make it harmless. If you **accept** this change, you **accept** making room for truth. The source of sin is gone. You will imagine that you still experience its effects, but it is not your purpose and you no longer want it. No one allows a purpose to be replaced if he desires it. This will follow with faith and persistence. The power of faith is always **recognized** if placed in love. It is impossible to place equal faith in any opposites. What you give to sin you take from holiness. What you offer holiness is removed from sin. Faith, belief and vision are the means by which holiness is reached. Faithlessness is not

a lack of faith, but faith in nothing. Faith given to illusions does not lack power. **This mad direction was your choice.** By faith in what you chose you made what you desired. Give faith to holiness, desiring and believing because of your desire. Faith and belief will become attached to vision. In your refusal to forgive, you condemn one to the body because the means for sin are dear to you. Holiness sets your brother free, removing hate by removing fear, not as a symptom, but at its source. As they desire to look on their brothers in holiness, the power of belief goes beyond the body, supporting vision. The miracles that follow this decision are also born of faith.

Chapter 21 - Reason & Perception

§5. The Fear To Look Within

Spirit will never teach that you are sinful. You are indeed afraid to look within to see the sin you think is there. Ego deems fear associated with sin quite appropriate. It has no fear to let you feel ashamed. It doubts not your belief in sin. Faith that sin is there will witness to your desire that it be there. **Remember** ego is not alone. Its enemy, whom it cannot see, it fears. Loudly ego tells you not to look inward, for if you do your eyes light on sin. This you believe, so do not look. This is not ego's hidden fear, nor yours. Loudly indeed ego claims it is. Beneath your fear to look within due to sin is another fear, one that makes ego tremble. What if you look within and saw no sin? This fearful question is one ego never asks. You who ask this threaten ego's defensive. Those who join their brothers detach themselves from a belief that identity lies in ego. A holy relationship is one in which you join with what is part of you. Your belief in sin has been already shaken. Your liberation is still only partial and incomplete, yet is born within. Not wholly mad, you are willing to look and **recognize** madness. Your faith is moving past insanity and to reason. What your reason tells you, ego would not hear. Spirit's purpose is **accepted** by the part of mind ego knows not. This part, which you now identify, is not afraid to look on itself. It knows no sin. How could it have been willing to see Spirit's purpose as its own? It desired nothing but to join. It waits for the **acceptance** of release. Now **recognize** it was not ego that joined Spirit, so there must be something else.

Chapter 21 - Reason & Perception

§6. The Function Of Reason

Perception selects and makes the world you see. It literally picks it out as you direct. The laws of size and brightness would hold if other things were equal. They are not equal. What you look for is far more likely to be found than what you prefer to overlook. The Voice is not drowned by ego's screams and ravings to those who really want to hear It. Perception is a choice and not a fact. On this choice depends more than you realize. On the voice you choose, and on the sights you choose, depends on your belief in what you are. Perception is a witness to this, but never to reality. It can show you the conditions in which **awareness** of reality is possible. Reality needs no cooperation from you to be what it is. **Awareness** of it needs help, because it is choice based. Listen to what ego says and you will see yourself vulnerable. You experience depression and worthlessness. You believe that you are helpless to forces beyond your control. You think the world you made directs your destiny. This will be your faith. **Never believe that, because faith makes it real.** There is another vision in which your freedom lies. If you place your faith in them, you perceive another self in you. This other self sees miracles as natural. They are as natural as breathing is to the body. Miracles seem unnatural to ego because it does not understand how separate minds can influence each other. Nor could they do so. But minds cannot be separate. This other self is well aware of this. It **recognizes** that miracles do not affect another's mind, only its own. There is no other. You do not **realize** the extent separation interferes with reason. Reason lies in the self you have cut from **awareness**. Nothing that you allowed to stay in **awareness** is capable of reason. How can a mind devoid of reason understand what reason is? Questions arise; if the question stems from reason, ego will not ask. Reason's alien nature to ego is proof you will not find the answer there. If it exists, and has freedom as purpose, you must be free to find it. Your Identity must therefore be together and the same. Yet a part of knowledge threatens dissociation as much as all of it. All will come with any part. Here is the part you **accept**. What reason points to you to see, witnesses on its behalf are clear about. Only the insane can disregard them, and you have

gone past this. Reason is a means that serves Spirit's purpose. It is not ever reinterpreted or redirected. Reason is beyond ego's range. Faith and perception can be misplaced, and serve the deceiver's needs. Reason has no place in madness, nor can it be adjusted to fit. Faith and belief are strong in madness, guiding perception. Reason enters not at all in this. Perception would fall away at once, if reason were applied. Insanity depends entirely on reason's absence. Ego never uses it; nor realizes it exists. The part of mind where reason lies is dedicated to the undoing of insanity. Here Spirit's purpose is **accepted**. Reason is alien to insanity. Those who use it gain a means which cannot be applied to sin. Knowledge is beyond attainment. Reason wills to open doors you closed. You have come close to this. Faith and belief shifted, and you asked the question ego will never ask. Faith and belief, upheld by reason, leads to change. In this change is room for vision.

Chapter 21 - Reason & Perception

§7. Reason Versus Madness

Reason cannot see sin but can see errors, and lead to their correction. Reason says that when you think you sin, you call for help. If you will not **accept** help, you will not know it is yours to give. Uncorrected error deceives you about the power in you to make correction. If it can correct, and you allow it not to, you deny yourself and your brother. If he shares this belief you both think you are both damned. Reason would not make way for correction in you alone. Correction cannot be accepted or refused by you without your brother. Reason says you cannot see your brother or yourself as sinful and perceive the other innocent. Sin maintains you as separate. Reason tells you that this must be wrong. If you are joined, how could you have private thoughts? If minds are joined, this is impossible. Only were both in bodies could this be. Nor could one mind think for itself unless body is mind. You do not leave insanity by going somewhere else. You leave it by **accepting** reason. Reason does not attack, but takes the place of madness quietly. The insane know not their will, for they believe they see the body, and let their madness tell them it is real. Reason would be incapable of this. If you would defend the body against reason,

you will not understand yourself. The body does not separate you and if you think it does you are insane. To see the body as a barrier between what reason tells you must be joined must be insane. If there is nothing in between, how can what enters part be kept away from other parts? Reason would tell you this. Here you will lay down the burden of denying truth. This is the burden that is terrible. What madness would conceal, Spirit still holds out for everyone to look on with gladness.

Chapter 21 - Reason & Perception

§8. The Last Unanswered Question

Do you not see that all your misery comes from the strange belief that you are powerless? Feeling helpless is the hidden cost of sin. Helpless is sin's condition; the one requirement it demands be believed. Those who see themselves as helpless must believe that they are not the Son of God. What can they be except his enemy? What can they do but envy him his power, and by their envy make themselves afraid? These are the dark ones, afraid, alone and not communicating, fearful the power of the Son of God will strike them dead, and raising up their helplessness against him. They join the army of the powerless, to wage their war of vengeance and spite, to make him one with them. They do not know that they are one with him. They are as likely to attack a brother or turn upon himself as to **remember** they had a common cause. Could he admit that no one made him powerless? Reason would surely bid him seek no longer what is not there to find. Yet first he must be willing to perceive a world where it is not. It is not necessary he understand how he can see it. If he focuses on what he cannot understand, he will emphasize helplessness, and let sin tell him his enemy is himself. Let him only ask himself these questions, which he must decide, to have it done for him:

Do I desire a world where I am powerful or helpless?

Do I desire a world in which I have no enemies?

Forget not that the choice of helplessness or power is the choice of whether to attack or heal. For healing comes of power, and attack of helplessness. Whoever you attack you cannot want to heal. This is your one decision.

Chapter 21 - Reason & Perception

§9. The Inner Shift

Are thoughts dangerous? To bodies, yes! Thoughts that seem to kill teach the thinker he can be killed. So he dies because of what he learned. He goes from life to death, the proof he valued the inconstant. He thought he wanted happiness. He did not desire it because it was truth and must be constant. The constancy of joy is quite alien to your understanding. If you could even imagine what it must be, you would desire it although you understand it not. The constancy of happiness has no exceptions; no change of any kind. It is unshakable. Sure in its vision, happiness looks on everything and sees it is the same. It sees not the ephemeral. Nothing has power to confound its constancy, because its own desire cannot be shaken. It comes as surely unto those who see the final question is necessary to the rest, as peace must come to those who choose to heal and not to judge. Reason will say that you cannot ask for happiness inconstantly. If what you desire you receive, and happiness is constant, you need ask for it once to have it always. **If you do not have it always, you did not ask for it.** Your answers have now made it possible to help you be partly sane. Yet it is the final one that really asks if you are willing to be sane. Here is the great appeal to reason; the **awareness** of what is always there to see, the happiness that could be always yours. Here is the constant peace you could experience forever. Here is what denial has denied revealed to you. Here the final question is already answered, and what you ask for given. Here the future is now. Time is powerless because of your desire for what will never change. You have asked nothing to stand between the holiness of your relationship and your **awareness** of its holiness.

Chapter 22 - Salvation & The Holy Relationship

§1. Introduction

Take pity on yourself, so long enslaved. Rejoice together and no longer look on sin apart. No two can look on sin together, for they could never see it in the same place and time. Sin is strictly an individual perception, seen in the other yet believed by each to be within himself. Each one seems to make a different error, one the other cannot understand. **It is the same, by the same, and forgiven the same way.** The holiness of your relationship forgives you and your brother, undoing the effects of what you both believed and saw. With their going the need for sin is gone with them. Who has need for sin? Only the alone, who see their brothers different from themselves. It is difference, seen but not real, that makes the need for sin seem justified. This would be real if sin were so. An unholy relationship is based on difference, where each one thinks the other has what he has not. They come together to complete oneself and rob the other. They stay until they think there is nothing left, and move on. They wander thru a world of strangers. A holy relationship starts from a different premise. Each one has looked within and seen no lack. He sees no difference between these selves, for differences are of the body. He denies not his own reality because it is truth. Just beside Heaven he stands, but close enough not to return to earth. For this relationship has Heaven's holiness. Think what a holy relationship can teach! Here is the faith in differences shifted to sameness. It must extend, as you extended when you joined. Now the sameness you saw extends and removes all sense of differences, so the sameness that lies beneath them becomes apparent. What is born into a holy relationship can never end.

Chapter 22 - Salvation & The Holy Relationship

§2. The Message Of The Holy Relationship

Where does your sense of disconnect and haunting lack of meaning arise? You wander without a plan. The world you see thru eyes that are not yours makes no sense. If this is not your vision, what can it show you? You cannot understand. Long and hard you try to understand its messages. You cannot understand

what fails to reach you. You listened to what cannot communicate. Something else explains it all to you. Vision renders this unnecessary. If your eyes are closed you call upon this thing to lead. You have no reason not to listen. It cannot be true if you do not understand. No secret need be hidden as a sin. Let not fear protect it from correction. Here is the emotion you made; the emotion of private thoughts. Emotion keeps you blind, leading you thru a world it made. Your sight was given, along with everything you can understand. You will have no difficulty in understanding what this vision tells you, for everyone sees as he thinks. Only vision conveys what you can see, with no interpretation. Of all messages you receive, this course alone is open to understanding. You do not understand because your communication is like that of a baby. The sounds a baby makes and hears are unreliable. Neither sounds nor sights are stable. A holy relationship is like a baby in its rebirth. In this infant your vision is returned. He needs no interpreter, for it was you who taught him. He cannot come to anyone but you. Communication is restored to those who join. They have seen thru vision not of the body, and communicated in a language the body does not speak. Here is the first direct perception you can make. You make it thru **awareness**. Truth comes instantly, to you where your Self must be. Denial of illusions calls on truth. To deny illusions is to **recognize** fear as meaningless.

Chapter 22 - Salvation & The Holy Relationship

§3. Your Brother's Sinlessness

The opposite of illusions is not disillusionment but truth. Only to ego, to which truth is meaningless, do they appear different. In truth they are the same. Both bring the same misery, though each seems to be the way to lose misery the other brings. Truth is the opposite of illusions because it offers joy. What but joy could be the opposite of misery? To leave one kind of misery and seek another is hardly an escape. All that is possible in the world is to select aspects and define the difference as joy. To perceive a difference where none exists will fail to make a difference. No form of misery can be confused with joy. Any seeming happiness that does not last is really fear. If change is real, illusions give way to truth, not to other dreams that are

unreal. The way to escape misery is to **recognize** it and go the other way. To believe that one exception can exist is to confuse what is the same with what is different. One illusion cherished and defended against the truth makes all truth meaningless and all illusions real. Such is the power of belief. Ego will assure you that it is impossible to see no guilt in anyone. If this seeing is the only means by which escape from guilt can be attained, then the belief in sin must be eternal. Reason looks another way; it sees the source of an idea as what will make it true or false. There is no point in trying to avoid one decision. Faith and belief can fall to either side. Forsake not now your brother. You are each other's savior or judge. This course is believed entirely or not at all. It is wholly true or wholly false, and cannot be partially believed. **You will either escape from misery entirely or not at all.** Nothing you made has any power over you. The misery you made has been your own. Are you glad to learn it is not true? Only your thoughts have been impossible. Salvation cannot be.

Chapter 22 - Salvation & The Holy Relationship

§4. Reason & The Forms Of Error

Introducing reason into a thought system is the beginning of ego's undoing. Reason and ego contradict. Nor can they coexist in **awareness**. Reason's goal is to make obvious. You can see reason. This is not a play on words, it is the beginning of vision. Vision is plain and is not ambiguous. Here reason and ego separate. Ego depends on a belief that you cannot learn this course. Reason sees thru errors, saying what you thought real is not. What you thought uncorrectable can be corrected. Ego looks on nothing that can be corrected. Ego damns and reason saves. Reason makes way for a state of mind in which salvation can be given. Only the form of error attracts ego. Everything the body's eyes see is a mistake, a distorted fragment without meaning. Yet mistakes, regardless of their form, can be corrected. Reason tells you the form of error is not what makes a mistake. The body's eyes see only form. They look on error and do not see past it. They can see only illusions, stopping at the outer form of nothing. How can sight that stops at nothingness see truly? It is held back by form. The body's eyes

are perfect, but not for seeing. The body's eyes rest on externals. Nothing is as blinding as the perception of form. Sight of form is your understanding obscured. Only mistakes have different forms. You can change form because it is not true. It is not real because it can change. Form must be an illusion and not there. If you see it you are mistaken. What cannot see beyond must be distorted. Could it **recognize** truth? Unholy values produce confusion in **awareness**. So it must become impossible to see himself as causing sin by his desire to have sin real. Reason sees a holy relationship as what it is; a common state of mind, where both give errors gladly to correction, that both may happily be healed as one.

Chapter 22 - Salvation & The Holy Relationship

§5. The Branching Of The Road

When you come to the branch in the road, you cannot go ahead. You must go one way or the other. For if you go the way you went before you reached the branch, you will go nowhere. The purpose of coming this far was to decide which branch you will take. The way you came no longer matters. It can no longer serve. No one who reaches this far can make the wrong decision, although he can delay. There is no part of the journey that seems more futile than standing where the road branches, and not deciding which way to go. It is but the first steps that seem hard, for you have chosen. Your way is decided. There will be nothing you will not be told if you acknowledge this. How beautiful is the sight beyond the veil, which you will bring to light. How thankful they will be to see you come among them, offering forgiveness to dispel their sin. Every mistake you make, your brother will gently correct for you. In his sight your loveliness is salvation, which he protects from harm. Each will be the others protector from everything that rises between you. You are here to let it be received. From you who have **accepted** it is it received. You who share it have become its guardians. All barriers disappear before their coming, as every obstacle was surmounted that seemed to rise and block their way. This veil you lift opens the way to truth. Those who would let illusions be lifted from their minds are this world's saviors. How easy is it to offer this miracle to everyone! No one who has received it could

find it difficult. Standing before the veil, it seems difficult. Hold out your joined hands and touch this heavy block, and you will learn how easily your fingers slip thru its nothingness. It is no solid wall. Only an illusion stands between you and the holy self you share.

Chapter 22 - Salvation & The Holy Relationship

§6. Weakness & Defensiveness

How does one overcome illusions? Not by force or anger, nor by opposing them. Merely let reason tell you they contradict, and against what must be true. Reality opposes nothing. What merely is needs no defense. Only illusions need defense. How can it be difficult to walk the way of truth when only weakness interferes? You are the strong one in this conflict. You need no defense. Everything that needs defense you do not want, for anything that needs defense will weaken you. Consider what ego wants defenses for. To justify what goes against truth, flies in the face of reason and makes no sense. This is an invitation to insanity. Belief in sin needs defense, at enormous cost. All that Spirit offers must be defended against. In truth you and your brother stand together, with nothing in between. Love rests in certainty. Only uncertainty can be defensive. All uncertainty is doubt about yourself. How weak is fear, how insignificant before strength! If you **recognize** how little stands between you and **awareness** of union! Within you is a Force that no illusion can resist. This body only seems to be immovable; this Force is irresistible in truth. **Forget not, when you feel the need to be defensive, you have identified with an illusion.** You feel weak because you are alone. This is the cost of illusions. All rest on the belief that you are separate. Not one that does not seem to stand, heavy and solid and immovable, between you and your brother. Not one that truth cannot pass over lightly, and so easily that you must be convinced, in spite of whatever you thought it was, that it is nothing. If you forgive each other, this must happen. For it is your unwillingness to overlook what seems to stand between you that makes it look impenetrable.

Chapter 22 - Salvation & The Holy Relationship

§7. The Light Of Holy Relationship

Do you want freedom of the body or the mind? One must serve the other and increase the other's importance by diminishing its own. All yearn for freedom. One will seek where he believes it can be found. Freedom of the body has no meaning, so the mind is dedicated to illusions. This is so contradictory that anyone who chooses it has no idea of value. It is impossible to hate what serves one whom you would heal. The holy relationship is lovely in innocence and mighty in strength. Nothing entrusted to it can be misused. This holy relationship has the power to heal all pain. Only in your joint will does healing lie. Before a holy relationship there is no sin. The form of error is no longer seen, and reason looks quietly on confusion, observing that it was a mistake. How blessed are you who let this gift be given! The light you bring you do not **recognize**, yet you will **remember**. Who can deny the vision he brings to others? What you bring is **remembrance** of everything that is eternal. No illusion can disturb the peace of a relationship that becomes the means of peace. When you have looked on your brother with forgiveness, what mistake can there be you cannot overlook? What form of suffering could block your sight? Could **remembrance** of what they are be long delayed? You see your value thru your brother's eyes. You have asked what your function is, and have been answered. **Accept** this and serve it willingly. On your learning depends the welfare of all the world. It is necessary that you have other experiences, more in line with truth, to teach you what is natural and true. This is the function of your holy relationship. What one thinks, the other will experience with him. What can this mean except minds are one? Let truth decide if you be different or the same, and teach you which is true.

Chapter 23 - The War Against Yourself

§1. Introduction

The opposite of all frailty and weakness is sinlessness. Innocence is strength; nothing else is strong. The sinless cannot fear, for sin is weakness. The show of strength attack uses conceals it not. How can the unreal be hidden? No one is strong who has an enemy. Belief in enemies is belief in weakness. **Strange indeed is this war against yourself!** You believe that all you use for sin hurts you and is your enemy. You fight against it, and try to weaken it. You think that you succeed, and attack again. It is as certain you will fear what you attack as you love what you perceive sinless. Walk in glory, and fear no evil. The innocent are safe as they share their innocence. Nothing they see harms, for **awareness** releases everything from the illusion of harm. Every error disappeared because they saw it not. Who looks for glory finds it where it is. Where could it be but in the innocent? There can be no attraction of guilt in innocence. Do not give up this world of freedom for a little sign of sin, or a tiny stirring of guilt. Your purpose is at variance with littleness. So it is also at variance with sin. Leave him not frightened and alone in his temptation, but help him rise above it and perceive the light of which he is a part. Your innocence will light the way to his, and is kept in your **awareness**. Who can know his glory, and perceive the little and the weak about him? You will understand all that is given you. In forgiveness the world sparkles and shines. How beautiful it is to walk, redeemed and happy, thru a world in bitter need of the redemption that your innocence bestows upon it! What can you value more than this? Here is your salvation and freedom. It must be complete if you would **recognize** it.

Chapter 23 - The War Against Yourself

§2. The Irreconcilable Beliefs

The memory of God will come to a quiet mind. It cannot come where there is conflict. A mind at war against itself can **remember not** eternal gentleness. What the warlike **remember not** is love. War is impossible unless victory is cherished. Conflict within implies you believe ego has power.

Why else would you identify with it? Certain is the belief it has an enemy it must overcome. A war on yourself is a war on God. Is this a victory that you want? The death of God is your death. Ego marches to defeat, as it thinks triumph over you is possible. You may identify with this, but never will it be but madness. Fear reigns in madness, and seems to replace love. To those who think it possible, the means seem real. It is impossible for ego and yourself to ever meet. Your beliefs converge on the body, ego's home. Ego joins with an illusion of yourself you share with it. Yet illusions cannot join. Ego joins with nothing, being nothing. The victory it seeks is always meaningless. The war against yourself is almost over. The journey's end is the place of peace. Would you not now **accept** the peace offered you here? The war against yourself is but the battle of two illusions, struggling to make them different from each other, in the belief the one that conquers will be true. There is no conflict between them and the truth. Nor are they different from each other. Both are not true. So it matters not what form they take. What made them is insane, and they remain part of what made them. Madness holds out no menace to reality, and has no influence upon it. Illusions cannot triumph over truth, nor can they ever threaten it in any way. The reality that they deny is not a part of them. What you **remember** is a part of you. Truth does not fight against illusions, nor do illusions fight against the truth. Illusions battle only with themselves. Being fragmented, they fragment. Truth is indivisible, and far beyond their little reach. You will **remember** what you know when you have learned you cannot be in conflict. One illusion about yourself can battle with another, yet the war of illusions is a state where nothing happens. There is no victor and no victory. Truth stands radiant, apart from conflict, untouched and quiet in peace. Conflict must be between two forces. It cannot exist between one power and nothingness. **There is nothing you can attack that is not part of you.** By attacking it you make two illusions of yourself, each in conflict with the other. This will occur whenever you look on anything with anything but love. Conflict is fearful. Yet what is born of nothing cannot win reality thru battle. Why would you fill your world with conflicts with yourself? Let all this madness be undone for you, and turn in peace to the **rememberance** of God. The conflict of illusion disappears when

brought to truth! It seems real only as long as it is seen as war between conflicting truths; the conqueror to be the true. Thus, conflict is the choice between illusions, one to be crowned as real, the other vanquished and despised. Illusion meets illusion; truth, itself. The meeting of illusions leads to war. Peace, looking on itself, extends itself. War is the condition in which fear is born, and grows and seeks to dominate. Peace is the state where love abides, and seeks to share itself. Conflict and peace are opposites. Where one abides the other cannot be; where either one goes the other disappears. Yet far beyond this senseless war it shines, ready to be **remembered** when you side with peace.

Chapter 23 - The War Against Yourself

§3. The Laws Of Chaos

Chaos cannot be understood. It is an obstacle to reason and truth. It is essential to understand what it is for. It is the function to make meaningless, and attack truth. **Here are the laws that rule the world you made.** They govern nothing. The **first law** is that truth is different for everyone. This maintains that each is separate and has different thoughts. Each one establishes this for self, and makes it true by attack on another. This interferes with the first principle of miracles. This establishes degrees of truth among illusions. **Realize** they are all the same and equally untrue. No part of nothing can be more resistant to truth than another. The **second law** is that each must sin, and deserves attack. This is the demand that errors call for punishment. The destruction of the one who makes error places him beyond correction. What he has done is viewed as a sentence upon self. Here is a principle that defines what the Creator of reality must be; what He must think, believe and respond. The **third law** seems to make chaos eternal. For if God cannot be mistaken, He must accept His Son's belief in what he is, and hate him. Fear of God is reinforced by this principle. It becomes impossible to turn to Him for help. There can be no escape. Ego values only what it takes. This leads to the **fourth law**: the belief you have what you have taken. Another's loss is your gain. It fails to **recognize** you can never take save from yourself. The other laws lead to this. Enemies do not give

willingly to one another. What your enemies keep from you must be worth having, as they keep it hidden. The mechanisms of madness emerge. You attack for what was withheld. So the guilty protest their innocence. In a savage world the kind cannot survive, so they must take or be taken. What is this precious thing to be wrested from this most cunning enemy? It must be what you want but never found. Now you can understand why you found it not. It was taken by this enemy, and hidden where you do not look. A **final law** comes to the rescue. It says there is a substitute for love. This will cure your pain; the factor in your madness that makes it sane. This is why you attack. It is vengeance justified. You think you walk in sanity with feet on solid ground. Consider this: It is here you look for meaning. **These are the laws you made.** The means of madness are insane. Are you certain you **realize** that the goal is madness? What protects madness is the belief it is true. It must be seen true to be believed. Its opposite must be madness. Such a reversal is the goal chaos serves. To be believed, its laws must be perceived as real. No law of chaos could compel belief but for the emphasis on form and the disregard of content. Some forms it takes seem to have meaning, and that is all. Let not the form of attack deceive you. Who can find safety from attack by turning on himself? How can it matter what the form this takes? It is judgment that defeats itself, condemning what it wants to save. What is intent on your destruction is not your friend. You would think it true that you do not believe these laws, nor act on them. When you look, they cannot be believed. **You do believe them.** You believe them for the form they take, and do not **recognize** the content. The gentler forms of attack are no less in their results. Illusions bring fear because of the beliefs they imply, not their form. Any lack of faith in love attests that chaos is reality. Where your thinking starts it must end. In any instant it is possible to have all this undone. Is peace in your **awareness**? Are you certain which way you go? If not, you walk alone. Ask your Friend to join with you, and give you certainty.

Chapter 23 - The War Against Yourself

§4. Salvation Without Compromise

You do not **recognize** some of the forms attack can take. If attack is in a form you do **recognize**, you do not always **recognize** the source. Attack is destructive. Its purpose does not change. You look on nightmares where purpose rises to meet a horrified awareness. The wrapping does not make the gift. A box, beautiful and gently given, still contains nothing. Neither receiver nor giver is deceived. If you withhold forgiveness from a brother you attack him. You give nothing, yet receive what you gave. Salvation is no compromise of any kind. Compromise is to accept but part, take a little and give up the rest. Salvation gives up nothing. It is complete for everyone. Let compromise enter, and **awareness** of purpose is lost. **Compromise is the belief salvation is impossible.** It maintains you can attack a little, love a little, and know the difference. Does this make sense? This course is easy because it makes no compromise. It seems difficult to those who believe that compromise is possible. Belief that salvation is impossible cannot uphold a quiet assurance it has come. Forgiveness cannot be withheld a little. Those who believe peace can be defended, that attack is justified, cannot perceive what lies within them. How could they know? Mistake not compromise for escape from conflict. Release from conflict means it is over. The door is open; you have left the battleground. You have not lingered in cowering hope. You can look in safety from above and not be touched. Think you the form that murder takes can offer safety? Can guilt be absent from a battlefield?

Chapter 23 - The War Against Yourself

§5. Above The Battleground

Do not remain in conflict. There is no war without attack. The fear of God is fear of life, and not of death. Heaven is wholly true. No difference enters, and what is all the same cannot conflict. You are not asked to fight against a wish to murder. You are asked to **realize** the form conceals the intent. It is intent you fear, and not the form. What is not love is murder. What does not love must be an attack. Every illusion is an assault on truth, and everyone does violence to the idea of love

because it seems to be of equal truth. What can be equal to truth, yet different? Murder and love are incompatible. If they both are true, they must be the same. Be lifted up, and from a higher place look down upon it. From there your perspective will be quite different. Here in the midst of it, it does seem real. **You have chosen to be part.** From above, the choice is miracles. The perspective from this choice shows the battle is easily escaped. Bodies may battle, but the clash of forms is meaningless. It is over when you **realize** it never began. When the temptation to attack rises to make your mind dark, **remember** you can see from above. Even in forms you do not **recognize**, you know the signs. There is a twinge of guilt or a loss of peace. This you know well. When they occur quickly choose a miracle. You have no reference point from where to look, where meaning can be given to all that you see. From below, it can never be surmounted. Light is in **awareness**, and only love shines. It is past, present and future; always the same and wholly shared. It impossible for their happiness to suffer change. Perhaps you think a battleground can offer something you can win. Can it ever offer you a perfect calmness?

Chapter 24 - The Goal Of Specialness

§1. Introduction

Forget not the motivation for this course is the attainment and keeping of a state of peace. Given this state the mind is quiet, and the condition in which God is **remembered** is attained. It is not necessary to tell Him what to do. He will not fail. Where He can enter He is already. Can it be He cannot enter where He wills to be? Peace will be yours because it is His Will. Can you believe a shadow can hold back the Will that holds the universe secure? God does not wait upon illusions to let Him be Himself. No more for His Son. What illusion seems to drift idly between them that have the power to defeat what is their own will? **To learn this course requires your willingness to question every single value that you hold.** Not one can be kept hidden but will jeopardize your learning. **No belief is neutral.** Everyone has the power to dictate every decision they will ever make. A decision is a conclusion based on everything that you believe. It is the outcome of belief, and follows it as surely as suffering follows guilt and freedom follows sinlessness. There is no substitute for peace. What God creates has no alternative. The truth arises from what He knows. Your decisions come from your beliefs as certainly as all creation rose in His Mind because of what He knows.

Chapter 24 - The Goal Of Specialness

§2. Specialness As A Substitute For Love

Love is extension. To withhold a small gift is to not know love's purpose. Love offers everything. Hold one belief and love is gone. Now it must war, the one alternative you choose instead of love. Your choice gives it reality. **An unrecognized belief is a decision to war in secret.** Mistake not the power of the hidden to disrupt your peace. It is at their mercy while you decide to leave it there. The secret enemies of peace, your least decision to choose attack instead of love, are there by your election. Do not deny this presence or the terrible results. All that can be denied is their reality, but not their outcome. All hidden belief unrecognized is faith in specialness. This takes many forms. What is different will call for judgment. Specialness

become a means and end at once. Specialness sets apart, and serves as grounds from which attack on those who seem lesser is natural and just. The special ones feel weak because of differences. What would make them special is the enemy. Yet they will protect it and call it friend. **Specialness is the dictator of wrong decisions.** Here is the grand illusion of what you and your brother are. Here is what must make the body worth preserving. Specialness must be defended. Illusions can attack it, and they do. He who is worse than you must be attacked, so that your own specialness can live on his defeat. For specialness is triumph. How can he live, with all your sins upon him? Who must be his conqueror but you? Would it be possible for you to hate your brother if you were like him? You journey to a goal that is the same. You are his enemy in specialness; his friend in shared purpose. Never can there be peace among the different. He is your friend because you are the same.

Chapter 24 - The Goal Of Specialness

§3. The Treachery Of Specialness

Comparison is an ego device. Specialness always makes comparisons. It is established by a lack seen in another, and maintained by keeping in sight all lacks it perceives. This it seeks, and looks upon. All it diminishes would be your savior, had you not chosen to make of him a measure of specialness. Against the littleness you see in him you stand tall and stately, clean, honest and pure. Nor do you understand it is yourself that you diminish. Pursuit of specialness is at the cost of peace. You have a function in salvation. Its pursuit will bring you joy. The pursuit of specialness brings pain. It is a goal that defeats salvation. Specialness is the idea of sin made real. Sin is impossible even to imagine without this base. Sin arose from it, out of nothingness. You are not special. If you would defend your specialness against the truth of what you are, how can you know the truth? What answer that Spirit gives can reach you, when it is your specialness to which you listen? Its tiny answer, in loving praise of what you are, is all you listen to. You can defend your specialness, but never will hear the Voice beside it. They speak a different language and fall on different ears. To all

special ones a different message is truth. How can truth be different to each one? The messages the special hear convince them they are different and apart. Vision is their enemy, for it sees not what they would look on. It shows the specialness they see is an illusion. All the world you made, and specialness, and all held in defense against yourself, will vanish as your mind **accepts** the truth about yourself. This is the only cost of truth: You will no longer see what never was. Truth gives no different messages, and has one meaning. It is one you and your brother both can understand, and brings release to both of you. Let not the dream of specialness remain between you. What is one is joined in truth. Think of the loveliness that you will see within yourself, when you have looked on him as on a friend. He is the enemy of specialness, but only friend to what is real in you. Not one attack you thought you made on him has taken from him the gift that God would have him give to you. His need to give it is as great as yours to have it. Let him forgive you all your specialness, and make you whole in mind and one with him. He waits for your forgiveness only that he may return it unto you. It is not God Who has condemned His Son, but you have, to save his specialness and kill his Self. You have come far along the way of truth; too far to falter now. Just one more step, and every vestige of fear will melt away in love. Your brother's specialness and yours are enemies, and bound in hate to kill each other and deny they are the same. It is not illusions that have reached this final obstacle which seems to make God and His Heaven so remote. Here in this holy place truth stands waiting to receive you and your brother in silent blessing and in peace so encompassing that nothing stands outside. Leave all illusions of yourself outside this place, to which you come in hope and honesty. Here is your savior from your specialness. He is in need of your **acceptance** of himself as part of you, as you for his. You are alike to God as God is to Himself. He is not special, for He would not keep one part of what He is unto Himself. Thru despair you travel now, yet it is only an illusion of despair. The death of specialness is not your death, but your **awakening**. You but emerge from an illusion of what you are to the **acceptance** of yourself.

Chapter 24 - The Goal Of Specialness

§4. The Forgiveness Of Specialness

Forgiveness is end of specialness. Illusion can be forgiven, and it disappears. Forgiveness is release from all illusions. It is impossible to partly forgive. No one who clings to illusion can see himself as sinless. How can he then give forgiveness, when he would not receive it for himself? It is sure he would receive it wholly the instant that he gave it wholly. Thus secret guilt will disappear. Whatever form of specialness you cherish, you have made sin. Inviolable it stands, defended with all your puny might against the Will of God. Thus it stands against yourself; your enemy, not God's. So it seems to split you off from God, and make you separate from Him as sins defender. You protect what God created not. This idol that seems to give you power has taken it away. You have given your brother's birthright to it, leaving him alone and unforgiven, and yourself in sin beside him, both in misery, before the idol that cannot save you. It is not you who are vulnerable and open to attack that just a word you do not like, an event you did not anticipate upsets your world. Truth is not frail. Illusions leave it undisturbed. Specialness is not the truth in you. It can be thrown off balance by anything. What rests on nothing never can be stable. However large and overblown it seems to be, it still must whirl about with every breeze. Without foundation nothing is secure. God asks your forgiveness. No separation will rise between what He wills for you and what you will. Forgive the Creator for your illusions of specialness, the hell you chose to be your home. The special ones are all asleep, surrounded by a world of loveliness they do not see. Peace and joy stand call them to **awaken** from their dream of death. Forgive your Father, it was not His Will that you be crucified.

Chapter 24 - The Goal Of Specialness

§5. Specialness Versus Sinlessness

Specialness is lack of trust in anyone except yourself. Faith is invested in you alone. Everything else is your enemy; feared, worthy of destruction. The gentleness it offers is deception, but its hate is real. In danger of destruction it must kill. What could the purpose of the body be but specialness? It is this that makes

it frail. Separation is a curse. Bodies have no goal. Purpose is of the mind. Minds can change as they desire. What they are, and all their attributes, they cannot change. **What minds hold as purpose can be changed and your body state shifts accordingly.** Of itself the body can do nothing. See it as means to hurt, and it is hurt. See it as means to heal, and it is healed. You can but hurt yourself. This is difficult to grasp. To minds intent on specialness it is impossible. To those who wish to heal and not attack, it is obvious. The purpose of attack is in the mind, and its effects are felt where it is. Nor is the mind limited; so must it be that harmful purpose hurts the mind as one. Nothing could make less sense to specialness. Nothing could make more sense to miracles. **Miracles are merely change of purpose from hurt to healing.** This shift in purpose does endanger specialness, in the sense that all illusions are threatened by truth. Consider, and consider well, whether it is your wish that you see your brother sinless. To specialness the answer is no. A sinless brother is its enemy. All the real proclaims his sinlessness. All that is false proclaims his sins real. If he is sinful, your reality is not real. Do not defend this senseless dream. Only this is certain in this shifting reality: When peace is not with you, and when you suffer pain, you have held sin in your brother. You are bound with him, for you are one.

Chapter 24 - The Goal Of Specialness

§6. The Christ In You

The Christ in you is very still. He looks on what He loves, and knows it as Himself. He rejoices at what He sees. He knows that it is one with Him. Specialness, too, takes joy in what it sees, though it is not true. What you seek is a source of joy as you conceive it. What you wish is true for you. Nor is it possible that you can wish for something and lack faith it is so. Wishing makes real, as surely as will creates. The power of wish upholds illusions as strongly as love extends itself. Except one deludes; the other heals. There is no dream of specialness, however disguised, in which you suffer not your condemnation. In dreams effect and cause are interchanged, for here the maker believes that what he made is happening. He does not **realize** a thread from here and a scrap from there wove a picture of nothing. The

parts do not belong together, and the whole contributes nothing to meaning. Where could your peace arise but from forgiveness? The Christ in you looks only on the truth, and sees no condemnation that could need forgiveness. He sees no sin. Identify with Him, and what has He that you have not? He is your eyes, your ears and hands. How beautiful His hand that holds His brother's; how lovingly He walks beside him. Let your specialness direct his way, and you will follow. Both will walk in danger, to lead the other to a nameless precipice. Where does it lead but destruction? Think not that it looked upon your brother first, nor hated him before it hated you. Is it joy to look upon decay and madness, and believe this is like you? **What you see is like you.** There must be doubt before conflict. Every doubt must be about you. Christ will exchange certainty for all doubts, if you agree that He is one with you. Where is doubt when certainty has come?

Chapter 24 - The Goal Of Specialness

§7. Salvation From Fear

Before your brother's holiness the world is still, and peace descends on it in blessing so complete that not one trace of conflict remains. He is your savior from the dreams of fear. He is the healing of your sense of sacrifice and fear that what you have will scatter with the wind and turn to dust. You can be sure that God is knowable and will be known to you. The sign that this is so lies in your brother, offered you that all your doubts about yourself may disappear. Without you there would be a lack in God. There could be no reality. Nothing is lost to you in the entire universe. Forget not that healing is all the world is for. That is the only purpose Spirit sees, and the only one it has. You will use the world for what is not its purpose, and will not escape its laws of violence. Look on your brother and behold the reversal of laws that rule this world. See in his freedom yours. Let not his specialness obscure the truth in him. Not one sin you see in him but keeps you both in hell. Choose his body or his holiness as what you want to see, and which you choose to look upon. You choose in countless situations, until truth be your decision. Your brother's mistakes can cause delay, which it is given you to take from him. What never was is not a part of you.

Yet you will think it is, until you **realize** that it is not a part of him who stands beside you. He is the mirror of you. You see all the judgment you laid on both of you. Your specialness looks on his body and beholds him not. See him as he is, that your deliverance may not be long. Futility of function not fulfilled will haunt you while your brother lies asleep, till he rises from the past. He who condemned himself and you as well, is given you to save from condemnation, along with you. Would you not gladly **realize** these laws are not for you? Then see him not as prisoner. Specialness is the function that you gave yourself. It stands for you alone, as self-created, self-maintained, in need of nothing, and unjointed with anything beyond the body. In its eyes you are a separate universe, with all the power within itself, shut against intrusion, and barred against the light. Always attacked and always furious, with anger always fully justified. You have pursued this with **vigilance** you never thought to yield, and effort that you never thought to cease. All this grim determination was for this; you wanted specialness to be the truth. Now you are merely asked that you pursue another goal with little effort and with little time, and promising success. Yet of the two, it is this one you seem to find more difficult. The sacrifice of self you understand, nor do you deem this cost too heavy. A tiny willingness you find a tedious burden, too heavy to be borne. Yet for dedication to truth no sacrifice is asked, no strain called forth, and all the power of truth is given to provide the means, and guarantee accomplishment. You, who believe it easier to see your brother's body than his holiness, be sure you well understand what made this judgment. Here is the voice of specialness heard clearly, setting forth a purpose and what you cannot do. Forget not that this judgment must apply to what you do with it as your ally.

Chapter 24 - The Goal Of Specialness

§8. The Meeting Place

Everyone tied to the world defend specialness! As it calls to him he hears no other Voice. No price is too dear to save specialness from tiny attack, doubt or anything but reverence. Let not your fancies frighten you. Only purpose has meaning. If it has no purpose, it means nothing. What is perceived as means for truth shares in its holiness. The test of everything on earth is this:

"What is it for?" The answer makes it what it is for you. It has no meaning of itself, yet you give reality to it, according to the purpose you serve. This is true, yet has no meaning to one who still retains one unlearned lesson in memory, one thought with purpose uncertain, or wish with a divided aim. This course makes no attempt to teach what cannot be learned. Its scope does not exceed yours, except to say that what is yours will come when you are ready. Here are the means and the purpose separate because they were so perceived. So we deal with them as if they were. Keep in mind that all perception is still upside down until its purpose has been understood. Perception does not seem to be a means. This makes it hard to grasp the extent to which it depends on what you see it for. **Perception seems to tell you what you see. It is witnesses to what you taught.** It is the outward picture of an image you want to be true. Look at you, and you see a body. Look at the body in a different light and it looks different. You believe it is there because you can feel. It proves its reality to you. The body is a theory of you, having no evidence beyond itself. You cannot conceive of yourself apart from it. Perception can serve another goal, one not bound to specialness. It is given to use perception for a different purpose. What you see will serve that purpose well, and it will prove its reality to you.

Chapter 25 - The Justice Of God

§1. Introduction

The Christ in you inhabits not a body. Yet He is in you. Thus it must be that you are not within a body. What is within you cannot be outside. It is certain that you cannot be apart from what is at the very center of your life. What gives you life cannot be housed in death. No more can you. Christ is within a frame of Holiness whose purpose is that He may be made manifest to those who know Him not, that He may call to them to come to Him and see Him where they thought their bodies were. Then their bodies will melt away, that they may frame His Holiness in them. No one who carries Christ in him can fail to **recognize** Him everywhere. Except in bodies. As long as he believes he is in a body, where he thinks he cannot be. So he carries Him unknowingly, and does not make Him manifest. Thus he does not **recognize** Him where He is. The son of man is not the risen Christ. Yet does the Son of God abide exactly where he is, and walks with him within his holiness, as plain to see as is his specialness set forth within his body. The body needs no healing. The mind that thinks it is a body is sick indeed! It is here that Christ sets forth the remedy. His purpose folds the body in His light, and fills it with the Holiness that shines from Him. Nothing that the body says or does but makes Him manifest. To those who know Him not it carries Him in gentleness and love, to heal their minds. Such is the mission that your brother has for you. So it must be that your mission is for him.

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§2. The Link To Truth

It cannot be hard to do the task Christ appointed you, as it is He Who does it. In doing you learn a body seems to be the means. Mind is His. So it must be yours. Perception says you are manifest in what you see. Behold the body, and you will believe you are there. All bodies you look upon remind you of yourself; sinful, evil and death. Do you not despise one who tells you this, and seek his death? Message and messenger are one. You must see a brother as yourself. Framed in a body you will see your

sinfulness, wherein you stand condemned. Set in his holiness, the Christ in him proclaims Himself as you. Perception is a choice of what you want yourself to be; the world you want to live in, and the state in which you think your mind will be content. It chooses where you think safety lies. **It reveals you to you as you would have you be.** It is faithful to your purpose, which it never separates out. Perception is a part of what it is your purpose to behold, for means and end are never separate. Thus you learn what seems to have a life apart has none. The veil is lifted thru gentleness, and nothing hides the face of Christ from its beholders. You and your brother stand before Him now. Spirit links the tiny, mad desire to be separate, different and special to the Christ. Spirit teaches how oneness is experienced and also what you must do so that it can be experienced. It is apparent that a mind split could never be a Teacher of Oneness. So what is within this mind and unites all things must be its Teacher. It uses the language this mind understands, in the condition it thinks it is. It uses all learning to transfer illusions to truth, taking false ideas of what you are. All this can very simply be reduced to this: What is the same cannot be different, and what is one cannot have separate parts.

Chapter 25 - The Justice Of God

§3. The Savior From The Dark

What the body's eyes perceive fills you with fear. Perhaps you think you find a hope of satisfaction, or fancy to attain peace in the world you perceive. It must be evident the outcome does not change. Despite hope, despair always results. There is no exception, nor will there ever be. The only value the past can hold is that you learn it gave you no rewards you would want to keep. Only thus will you be willing to relinquish it, and have it gone forever. Is it not strange that you cherish some hope from the world you see? In no respect, at any time or place, has anything but fear and guilt been your reward. How long is needed to **realize** it is not worth delaying change that might result in a better outcome? The way you see gives no support to base your future hopes. To place hope where no hope lies makes you hopeless. Is this hopelessness your choice, while you seek for hope where none is found? You have found some hope

apart from this that hopefulness is warranted on grounds that are not in this world. Your hope that they may still be here prevents you from giving up the hopeless task you set for yourself. Can it make sense to hold a fixed belief that there is reason to uphold pursuit of what has always failed, on grounds that it will bring what it has never brought before? Its past has failed. Be glad that it is gone, darkening what is there. Take not form for content. In the darkness see the savior from the dark, and understand your brother. He steps forth from darkness as you look on him, and you see dark no more. Dark touched him not, nor touched you. His sinlessness pictures yours. His gentleness is your strength, and both gladly look within, and see holiness that must be there because of what you looked upon in him.

Chapter 25 - The Justice Of God

§4. Perception And Choice

To the extent you value guilt you will perceive a world in which attack is justified. To the extent you **recognize** guilt as meaningless, you will perceive that attack cannot be justified. This is perception's fundamental law: **You see what you believe is there, and you believe it there because you want it there.** Perception has no law than this. The rest stems from this. The world of this reflection is not real at all. Perception rests on choosing. Knowledge has but one law. This world has two who made it. To each it has a different purpose. For specialness, it is the perfect shelter for illusions which it would make real. Corrected error is error's end. Another Maker can reconcile its goal with His Creator's purpose. In His perception, nothing is seen but justifies forgiveness. Nothing arises but is met with instant forgiveness. Nothing remains an instant to obscure sinlessness. Everyone here entered darkness, yet no one has entered alone. Nor need he stay more than an instant. He has come with Heaven's help, ready to lead him out of darkness into light. The time he chooses can be any time. He will reinterpret all temptation as another chance to bring joy. How can a misperception be a sin? A brother's errors are a chance for you to see the workings of the Helper. This world has much to offer to your peace, and many chances to extend your

forgiveness. Such its purpose is, to those who want to see peace descend on them, and offer the light. If it is forgiven, sin's perception must have been wrong. Thus change is made. Sin cannot encroach on vision, for sin is corrected by it. To forgive is to change its state from error to truth. Make your choice. **Recognize** that in this choice the purpose of the world you see is chosen.

Chapter 25 - The Justice Of God

§5. The Light You Bring

Minds that are joined and **recognize** this can feel no guilt. They cannot attack, and they rejoice this is so, seeing their safety in this simple fact. Their joy is in the innocence they see. They seek for it. It is their purpose to behold and rejoice. Everyone seeks joy as he defines it. It is not the aim that varies. It is the way the aim is seen that makes the choice of means. The means are chosen as what will bring rejoicing. You rejoice at what you see because you see it to rejoice. While you think that suffering will bring you joy, it is there to see. It is your wish that makes it what it is in its effects on you. You chose it as a means to gain these effects, believing them to be the bringers of rejoicing. You bring this world to all the weary eyes and tired hearts that look on sin and beat its refrain. From you can come their rest. You can raise a world they will rejoice to look on, where hearts are glad. In you there is vision that extends to all, and covers them in gentleness. In this widening world of light the darkness they thought was there is pushed away, until it is distant shadows, not long **remembered**, as the sun shines them to nothing. All evil thoughts of sinful hopes, guilt and revenge, and every wish to hurt and die, will disappear before the sun you bring. Evil thoughts that haunt you will seem more remote and far away. They go farther and farther off, because the sun in you has risen that they may be pushed away. They linger for a little while, in twisted forms and then are gone forever. In the light you stand quiet, in innocence and unafraid. Those who offer peace to everyone have found a home the world cannot destroy. In you is Heaven. How better could your mistakes be brought to truth than by your willingness to bring the light with you, as you walk beyond the world of darkness into light?

Chapter 25 - The Justice Of God

§6. The State Of Sinlessness

The state of sinlessness is this: The whole desire to attack is gone. The need for guilt is gone; it has no purpose. Attack and sin are one illusion, each the cause and justifier of the other. Each is meaningless alone, but it draws meaning from the other. No one believes in one unless the other is true, for each attests the other must be true. Attack makes your enemy. Must you not be fearful of yourself? You have hurt yourself, and made your Self an enemy. **You must believe you are not really you, but something alien.** Who would attack what he perceives as innocent? Christ stands before you every time you look upon a brother. He has not gone just because your eyes closed. Nor do you hear his call, unchanged in whatever form the call is made, that you unite with him in innocence and peace. Beneath ego's senseless shrieks, such is the call. Alone neither has it. So it must remain useless to both. Together, it gives to each an equal strength to save the other. Forgiven by you, your savior offers salvation. Condemned by you, he offers death. In everyone you see but the reflection of what you choose to have him be to you. If you decide against his proper function, you are depriving him of the joy he would find. It is no sacrifice that he be saved, for by his freedom will you gain your own. To let his function be fulfilled is but the means to let yours be. How beautiful his sinlessness will be when you perceive it! **Remembering** but this: What you see him do you also do along with him. As you see him, so you define the function he will have for you, until you see him differently. In your brother you see the picture of your own belief. The role you give to him is given you, and you will walk the way you pointed out to him because it is your judgment on yourself.

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§7. The Special Function

Eyes become used to darkness, and the light of day seems painful to eyes grown accustomed to the dim twilight. They turn away from sunlight and the clarity it brings. Dimness is easier to see. The vague and obscure seems easier to look on; less painful than what is clear. This is not what eyes are for. Who

can say he prefers darkness and maintain he wants to see? The wish to see calls grace upon your eyes, and brings the gift of light that makes sight possible. Would you behold your brother? God is glad to have you look on him. He does not will your savior be unrecognized by you. Nor does He will he remain without the function He gave to him. Let him no more be lonely. The lonely ones see no function for them to fill and no place where they are needed. To each He gives a special function in salvation that he alone can fill. Nor is the plan complete until each finds his function, and fulfills the part assigned, to make himself complete in a world where incompleteness rules. Do one perfect thing and make one perfect choice. By this act of special faith to one perceived as other, learn the gift was given to self, and so they must be one. Forgiveness is the only function meaningful in time. It is the means Spirit uses to translate specialness from sin to salvation. Forgiveness is for all. When it rests on all it is complete. Then time is no more. While in time, there is much to do. Each must do what is allotted him, for on his part all the plan depends. Salvation is a reminder this world is not your home. Its laws are not imposed on you; its values are not yours. Spirit needs your special function. Take it gently from your brother's hand, and let salvation be perfectly fulfilled in you. Do this one thing, that everything be given you.

Chapter 25 - The Justice Of God

§8. The Rock Of Salvation

If Spirit can commute each sentence that you laid upon yourself into a blessing, then it cannot be a sin. Sin is the only thing the world cannot change. The magic of the world can seem to hide the pain of sin from sinners, and deceive with glitter. Sin is a request for death to make the world's foundation sure. The world is safe from love to one who thinks sin possible. Is it possible what God created not shares the attributes of creation, when it opposes it in every way? It cannot be the sinner's wish for death is as strong as God's Will for life. Nor can the basis of a world He did not make be firm and sure. How could it be that hell and Heaven are the same? If you could **realize** nothing is changeless but the will of God, this course would not be difficult for you. It is this that you do not believe. Yet there is nothing

else you could believe, if you but looked at what it really is. What is madness cannot be truth. If one belief deeply valued here is true, then every thought God ever had is illusion. If but one thought of His is true, then beliefs the world gives meaning to make no sense. **This choice you make.** Do not attempt to twist it into something it is not. The rest is up to God. This world is meaningless because it rests on sin. Who could create the changeless if it does not rest on truth? Spirit has the power to change the whole foundation of the world you see to something elsed. Nothing attests to cruelty, separation and differences. Everything is perceived as one and no one loses that one may gain. Test everything that you believe against this requirement, and understand that everything that meets this one demand is worthy of your faith. But nothing else is. What is not love is sin, and both perceive the other as meaningless. Love is the basis of a world perceived as mad to sinners, who believe theirs is the way to sanity. Sin is insane within sight of love, whose eyes look beyond madness. Your special function is the special form in which the fact that God is not insane appears sensible to you. The content is the same. The form is suited to your special needs, to the special time and place in which you think you find yourself, and where you can be free of place and time, and all that limits you. Choice cannot be made by the insane, as their choices are not made in the light of sense. It is madness to entrust salvation to the insane. The sin one sees in the world offers less and less. Until he comes to understand it cost his sanity, and stands between him and whatever hope he has of being sane. Nor is he left without escape from madness, for he has a special part in everyone's escape. He cannot be left outside without a special function in the hope of peace. It is God's Will that you **remember** this, and so emerge from deep mourning into perfect joy. **Accept** the function assigned to you. Salvation includes the idea no one can lose for anyone to gain. Everyone must gain, if anyone would be a gainer. Here is sanity restored. Reason is satisfied, for all insane beliefs can be corrected. Sin must be impossible. This is the rock salvation rests on, the vantage point from which Spirit gives meaning to the plan in which your special function has a part. Here your special function is made whole, as it shares the function of the whole.

Chapter 25 - The Justice Of God

§9. Justice Returned To Love

Spirit can use all you give for your salvation. But not what you withhold and not without your willingness. So you would not learn it is your will to be without it. You need not give wholly willingly, for if you could you had no need of Him. This He needs: That you prefer He take it than you keep it for you alone. This is necessary to the idea that no one can lose for you to gain. Here is the only principle salvation needs. Nor is it necessary that your faith be strong. **Remember** salvation is not needed by the saved. You are not called upon to do what one divided against self would find impossible. Have little faith that wisdom could be found in such a state of mind. Be thankful that only little faith is asked. What but a little faith remains to those who still believe in sin? There is a kind of justice in salvation of which the world knows nothing. To the world, justice and vengeance are the same; sinners will see justice as punishment. The laws of sin demand a victim. Who it may be makes little difference, the cost must be paid. This is not justice, but insanity. You who know not of justice still can ask, and learn the answer. Justice looks on all the same way. It is not that one should lack for what another has. That is vengeance in every form. Justice demands no sacrifice, for if any sacrifice is made then sin may be preserved. So the victim is seen as partly you, with someone else the greater part. In the total cost, the greater his, the less is yours. Justice, being blind, is satisfied by being paid. Can this be justice? Fairness with vengeance is impossible. Each contradicts the other. Deep suspicion comes over them when they are told they have never sinned. Their world depends on sin's stability. Love is not understood to sinners because they think justice is split off from love, and stands for something else. Thus love is perceived as weak, and vengeance as strong. Love has lost when judgment left its side, and is too weak to save from punishment. Vengeance has gained in strength by being separate and apart from love. What can Love ask of you who think that all of this is true? As specialness cares not who pays the cost of sin, Spirit heeds not who looks on innocence at last, provided it is seen and **recognized**. Just one witness is enough, if he sees truly. Of each one Spirit asks if he will be that one, so

justice returns to love. Each special function He allots is for this; that each one learns that love and justice are not separate. Both are strengthened by union with each other. Without love justice is prejudiced. Love is fair. What cause can warrant an attack on the innocent? In justice, love can correct mistakes, but not in vengeance. The understanding comes not of you, but from a larger Self, so great and holy that He cannot doubt His innocence. Your special function is a call to Him. Judge not because you cannot, not because you are a sinner too. How can the special understand that justice is the same for everyone? To take from one to give another must be injustice to both, since they are equal in Spirit. You have the right to the entire universe; to perfect peace, complete deliverance from effects of sin, and to life eternal, joyous and complete in every way. This is the only justice Heaven knows, and all Spirit brings to earth. Your special function shows you nothing else but perfect justice can prevail for you.

Chapter 25 - The Justice Of God

§10. The Justice Of Heaven

What can it be but arrogance to think your little errors cannot be undone by Heaven's justice? What could this mean except that they are sins and not mistakes, to be met with vengeance? Are you willing to be released from all effects of sin? You cannot answer until you see all the answer entails. If you answer yes it means you forego all values of this world in favor of peace. Not one doubt that this is possible will you hold. You **recognize** truth must be revealed, because you know not what it is. To give reluctantly is to not gain the gift, because you are reluctant to **accept** it. It is saved until your reluctance to receive disappears, and you are willing for it to be given. Nothing you give is lost to anyone. Each gift adds to the supply. An answer to a problem Spirit solves will be one in which no one loses. He asks no sacrifice of anyone. An answer which demands loss to anyone has not resolved the problem, but makes it greater. What is unfair must be corrected because it is unfair. Sight of innocence makes punishment impossible and justice sure. Spirit's perception leaves no ground for attack. The world solves problems in another way. It sees resolution as a state in which it

decided who wins and who loses; how much one shall take, and how much the loser defends. The problem is unsolved, for only justice can set up a state in which there is no loser. Problem solving cannot be vengeance, which at best can bring another problem. Spirit's solving is the way in which the problem ends. It is solved because it has been met with justice. Until it has it will recur, because it has not been solved. The principle that justice means no one can lose is crucial to this course. Miracles depend on justice. Healing must be for everyone, because no one merits attack. What order can there be in miracles, unless someone deserves to suffer? A miracle is justice. It is not to be withheld from others as less worthy. Who is there who can be separate from salvation, if its purpose is the end of specialness? Where is salvation's justice if some errors are unforgivable, and warrant vengeance in place of healing and return of peace? To give a problem to Spirit to solve for you means that you want it solved. To keep it for yourself to solve without His help is to decide it should remain unsolved. No one can be unjust to you, unless you have decided to be unjust. Problems rise to block your way, and peace is scattered. Unless you think all your brothers have an equal right to miracles with you, you will not claim your right to them. **If you ever seek to deny, you feel denied. If you ever seek to deprive, you are deprived.** Forgiveness offers miracles. The little problems you keep and hide become secret sins, as you did not choose to let them be removed. So they gather dust and grow, until they cover everything that you perceive. The unforgiven have no mercy. That is why your responsibility must be to take forgiveness for yourself. The miracle that you receive, you give. No one can lose, everyone benefits. A miracle is what justice can accomplish when offered to everyone. It is **awareness** that giving and receiving are the same. It teaches but one message:

What is God's belongs to everyone.

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§1. The Sacrifice Of Oneness

In the dynamics of attack sacrifice is key. It is the pivot on which all compromise and all conflicts achieve a balance. This is the theme that somebody must lose. Its focus on the body is apparent, for it is always an attempt to limit loss. The body gives up power in the name of saving a little for yourself. To see a brother separate is a wish to see a part of him and sacrifice the rest. The world you see is a sacrifice of oneness. It is a picture of a lack of joining. What the body fences off becomes a self, preserved by sacrifice of the rest. All must lose, remaining incomplete. To accept the limits of a body is to impose limits on any brother you see. You see him as you see yourself. Those who would see the witnesses to truth instead of to illusion merely ask that they might see a purpose in the world that gives it sense. Without your special function this world has no meaning for you. No instant passes in which your brother's holiness cannot be seen, to add a supply to every crumb of happiness you allot yourself. Judge him not, for you will hear no song of liberation for yourself. He is the same forever.

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§2. Many Forms; One Correction

Understand why you do not ask Spirit to solve problems for you. Every problem is the same; each is solved thru the same approach. Problems appear in many forms, and will do as long as the problem lasts. It serves no purpose to attempt to solve it in a special form. It will recur again and again, until it has been answered for all time. Only then will you be released. Spirit offers release from every problem you think you have. They are the same because each one is a demand that someone suffer loss and make a sacrifice that you might gain. When the situation is worked out so no one loses the problem is gone. It was a perception error that has been corrected. There is but one mistake; the idea that loss is possible and could result in gain. If this were true, then God would be unfair; sin would be possible, attack be justified and vengeance fair. This one mistake has one correction. The miracle of justice can correct all errors. **Every**

problem is an error. You who believe it safe to give some to be corrected while you keep others to yourself, **remember** this: There is no such thing as part justice. Each time you keep a problem for yourself to solve you deny the miracle of justice. You believe some injustices are good. There are those you want to suffer, but there is no one you wish to preserve from sacrifice entirely. Consider once again your special function. You will ask no sacrifice because you cannot will loss. Think how great your release will be when you receive correction for your problems. You will not keep one, for you will not want pain in any form.

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§3. The Borderland

Complexity is not of God. He knows of one creation and one reality. Nothing conflicts with oneness. How can there be complexity in Him? It is conflict that makes choice possible. Truth is simple; it is one, without an opposite. How can strife enter its simple presence? Truth makes no decisions. What is everything leaves room for nothing else. This magnitude is beyond the scope of this curriculum. Nor is it necessary for us to dwell on anything that cannot be immediately grasped. **A borderland of thought is between this world and Heaven.** It is not a place, and when you reach it is apart from time. It is the meeting where thoughts are together; where all illusions are laid down. Here sin is denied. This is the journey's end. We refer to it as the real world. Yet there is a contradiction, in that the words imply a limited reality. This is because knowledge can make no attack on perception. Salvation is a borderland where place and time and choice have meaning, and yet it can be seen that they are temporary, out of place, and every choice has been already made. It has no meaning, and does not exist. This is not your decision. But in this world what is the same and different remain unclear. The essential thing to make a choice at all is this distinction. Here lays the difference between the worlds. In the real world choosing is simplified. This difference is the learning goal this course has set. It will not go beyond this aim. Its only purpose is to teach you what is the same and what is different, leaving room to make the only choice that can be made.

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§4. Where Sin Has Left

Forgiveness is this world's equivalent of Heaven's justice. It translates the world of sin into a simple world. Nothing in boundless love could need forgiveness. What is charity in the world gives way to simple justice. No one forgives unless he believed in sin, and believes that he has much to be forgiven. Forgiveness becomes the means. He learns he has done nothing to forgive. Forgiveness always rests on the one who offers it, until he sees himself as needing it no more. Then he is returned to his function of creating. Forgiveness turns the world of sin into a world of glory, wonderful to see. There is no sadness and there is no parting. What has forgiven must join, for nothing stands to keep them apart. In the space sin left vacant they join as one, **recognizing** what is part of them has not been kept separate. The holy place on which you stand is the space sin has left. Who could fear love? Here every light of Heaven comes, to be rekindled and increased in joy. Here all their radiance is made whole. Each one teaches that what he feared he loves the most. What but a miracle could change his mind, so that he understands that love cannot be feared? What other miracle is there but this? What else need there be to make the space between you disappear? As they come to you to be completed, so will you go with them. No one hears the song of Heaven and remains without a voice that adds power to the song, and makes it sweeter still. What was tiny has soared into a magnitude in which the universe has joined with a single voice. How little is the hindrance that withholds the wealth of Heaven from you.

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§5. The Little Hindrance

A little hindrance can seem large to those who do not understand miracles are all the same. Teaching that is what this course is for. Only that is all there is to learn. All learning is either a help or a hindrance. Nothing between is possible. There are two teachers, who point in different ways. You go the way your chosen teacher leads. There are two directions. Never will another road be made. There is nothing else to choose. Nothing is ever lost but time, which is meaningless. Since you believe in

it, why should you waste it going nowhere, when it can be used to reach a goal as high as learning can achieve? Nothing you undertake with certain purpose and resolve is difficult to do. It is hard indeed to wander off, alone, down a road that leads to nothing. Time lasts but an instant in your mind, with no effect upon eternity. Time is past, and everything is as it was before the way to nothingness was made. In each unforgiving act or thought, in every judgment and all belief in sin, is an instant called back, as if it can be remade again in time. You keep an ancient memory before your eyes. He who lives in memories alone is unaware of where he is. This is a hindrance to where he stands. Everything that points to it as real is but a wish that what is gone can be made real again and seen as here, in place of what is really now and here. This is a hindrance to the truth of past as gone. Why do you want that fearful instant kept? Forget the time of terror so long ago undone. This course will teach you only what is now. A dreadful instant in a distant past, now corrected, is of no concern. Let the dead and gone be peacefully forgotten.

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§6. The Appointed Friend

Anything in this world that you believe is good and valuable and worth striving for can hurt you, and will do so. Not because it has the power to hurt, but just because you have denied that it is an illusion, and made it real. It is real to you. It is not a nothing. Thru its perceived reality it has entered all sick illusions. All belief in sin, power of attack, hurt and harm, sacrifice and death, has come to you. No one can make one illusion real, and escape the rest. Who can choose to keep the ones he prefers, and find safety that truth alone can give? Who can believe illusions are the same, and still maintain that one is best? Lead not your little life in solitude, with one illusion as your only friend. This is no friendship worthy of God's Son, or one with which he could remain content. Yet God has given him a better Friend, in whom all power in earth and Heaven rests. The one illusion you think is friend obscures grace and majesty from you, and keeps His friendship and forgiveness from your welcoming embrace. Without Him you are really friendless. Seek not

another to take His place. There is no other friend. What God appointed has no substitute, for what illusion can replace truth? Who dwells with shadows is alone indeed, and loneliness is not the Will of God. Would you allow one shadow to usurp the throne that God appointed for your Friend, if you but realized its emptiness has left yours empty? Make no illusion, for if you do, it can but take the place of Him Whom God has called your Friend. It is He Who is your only Friend in truth. He brings you gifts not of this world, and only He to Whom they have been given can make sure you receive them.

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§7. The Laws Of Healing

The laws of healing must be understood before the purpose of this course can be accomplished. All sickness comes from separation. When the separation is denied, it goes. It is gone as soon as the idea that brought is replaced by sanity. Sickness is kept hidden from **awareness**. Guilt asks for punishment, and its request is granted. Perception is a wish fulfilled. Perception changes to take the place of knowledge. Truth is unchanged. It is not perceived, only known. What is perceived takes many forms, but none has meaning. Perception's laws are opposite to truth, and what is true of knowledge is not true of anything that is apart from it. Ideas leave not their source and their effects but seem to be apart from them. Ideas are of the mind. What is projected out, and seems to be external, is not outside at all, but an effect of what is in. Perception must be reversed. This must be corrected where the illusion of reversal lies. It is possible that some illusions are given greater value, and less willingly offered for healing and help. No illusion has any truth. A hierarchy of illusions shows preference, not reality. Not one is true in any way. The belief sin is real has made errors seem past hope of healing. Illusions have no witnesses and no effects. Forgiveness is the only function, and serves to bring joy. You do not see the role forgiveness plays in ending belief in guilt. Sins are beliefs you impose between you and your brother. They give a little space to you, and a little space to him. This separating is symbolized by a body as a thing apart. This represents your wish to be separate. Forgiveness takes away what stands between. It

is the wish you be joined. Salvation asks but a little wish that what is true be true and a little willingness to overlook what is not there. In joyous answer creation rises in you, to replace the world you see. It is impossible that anything be lost, if what you have is what you are. Can uncertainty be what you want? Or is this a mistake about your will, and what you really are? Consider the error, so it can be corrected, not protected. Sin is a belief attack can be projected outside the mind where belief arose. Here is the firm conviction that ideas can leave their source and made meaningful. This world's failure shows that you still feel guilty, though without understanding why. Effects are seen as separate from their source, and seem beyond control. Cause and effect are one, not separate. This is as true of what is idly wished as what is truly willed. The mind can wish to be deceived, but cannot make what is not. To believe ideas can leave their source is to invite illusions to be true. Forgiveness is the answer to attack of any kind. So attack deprived is of its effects, and hate is answered in the name of love. Let us unite in bringing blessing to the world of sin and death. What can save each one of us can save us all.

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§8. The Immediacy Of Salvation

You see an interval between when you forgive, and will receive the benefits. This reflects the little you would keep between you. Time and space are one illusion in different forms. If it is projected beyond your mind you think of it as time. The nearer it is brought, the more you think in terms of space. There is a distance you keep apart from your brother. This space you perceive to be time because you believe you are external. This makes trust impossible. Thus you think it safer to be watchful of separate interests. You cannot conceive of gaining what forgiveness offers. Unless you perceive salvation as immediate, you will fear it, as the risk of loss is great between when its purpose is made and its effects come to you. Salvation would let you instantly become as one. It is here you fear the loss. Do not project this to time. Time is neutral, except in terms of what you see it for. If you would keep a little space, you want time in which forgiveness is withheld a while. Space between you and

your brother is apparent only in the present, and cannot be perceived in future time. Future loss is not your fear. Joining is your dread. Who can feel desolation except now? **The plans you make for safety are laid in the future, where you cannot plan.** Who can predict effects without a cause? Belief in sin arouses fear. Like its cause, it looks forward, looks back, but overlooks here and now. Its cause must be here and now, if its effects are fearful. It is kept separate from healing. A miracle is now. Working out correction takes no time at all. **Acceptance** of the working out can seem to take forever. Why wait till they unfold in time? Delay is senseless. Look not to time, but to the little space between you to be delivered from.

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§9. For They Have Come

Think how holy you must be from whom the Voice calls to your brother that you awake in him the Voice that answers your call! Think how holy he must be when in him sleeps your salvation, with his freedom joined! However you wish he be condemned, God is in him. Never will you know He is in you as well if you attack. Regard him gently. Is it too much to ask a little trust for him who carries Christ to you, that you may be forgiven your sins, and left without a single one you cherish? A shadow held between your brother and yourself obscures the face of Christ and memory of God. Would you trade them for an ancient hate? The ground where you stand is holy ground because of them who, standing with you, blessed it with innocence and peace. The blood of hate fades to let grass grow green again. What was a place of death has become a living temple in a world of light. Because of them! What hate has wrought they have undone. Now you stand on ground so holy Heaven leans to join with it, and make it like itself. The shadow of an ancient hate has gone, and all the blight and withering have passed forever from the land where they have come. What is a hundred or a thousand years to them, or tens of thousands? When they come, time's purpose is fulfilled. What never was passes to nothingness when they have come. What hatred claimed is given up to love and freedom lights up every living thing. Now Spirit's purpose is done. For they have come! They have come at last!

Chapter 26 - The Transition

§10. The End Of Injustice

What remains to be undone to **realize** their presence? This: you have a view of when attack is justified, and when you think it is unfair and not allowed. When you perceive it unfair, you think a response of anger is just. Thus you see what is the same as different. Confusion is not limited. If it occurs it will be total. Its presence, in any form, will hide their presence. Confused perception blocks knowledge. It is not the size of confusion. Its presence shuts the door, and keeps them unknown. What does it mean if you perceive attack in certain forms to be unfair to you? It means there must be some forms which you think fair. Otherwise, how could some be evaluated as unfair? Some are perceived as sensible. Only some are seen as meaningless. This denies that all are senseless, equally without consequence. Their presence is obscured by any veil that stands between their innocence and your **awareness**. Unfairness and attack are one mistake. Where one is perceived the other must be seen. You cannot be unfairly treated. The belief you are is but another form of the idea you are deprived by someone not yourself. Projection of the cause of sacrifice is the root of everything perceived unfair. **It is you who ask this of yourself.** You have no enemy except yourself, because you do not know yourself. What could be more unjust than that he be deprived of what he is and denied the right to be himself? Beware of temptation to perceive yourself unfairly treated. You seek an innocence not theirs, but yours alone. Is it innocence that your attack attempts to get? Spirit's purpose is to let your holy guests be known. The world is purposeless except for this. To add or take away from this one goal is but to take away all purpose from the world and from yourself.

Chapter 27 - The Healing Of The Dream

§1. The Picture Of Crucifixion

The wish to be unfairly treated is an attempt to combine attack and innocence. Who can make unity of what cannot join? Place no terror symbols on your path, or you weave a crown of thorns which you will not escape. You cannot crucify yourself alone. If you are unfairly treated, he must suffer the unfairness you see. Every pain is proof he is guilty. Look on yourself to **realize** in his innocence you find your own. When you consent to unfair treatment, you accuse a brother of attack. A picture you offer him you show yourself. Spirit offers a picture in which there is no reproach. The power of witness is beyond belief as it brings conviction. A suffering you represents a brother's guilt. This sick picture only serves to punish. Sickness is a form of vengeance. Everything it shows you believed, because it witnessed to guilt you perceived. Spirit lays a picture of a different you. This is not for attack, and never suffered. It witnesses to the truth that you cannot be hurt. Show this to your brother. Healed eyes will look to the innocence he beholds in you. Here is proof he has never sinned; that nothing his madness bid him do had effects. Attest his innocence. Your healing is his comfort and health. Show your brother sin has no cause. Spirit's picture changes not the body into what it is not. It takes away all signs of accusation. Without a purpose, it is not sick nor well, not bad nor good. It witnesses to nothing and the mind is made free to choose. Let the body have no past. Let purpose and your function be seen as one.

Chapter 27 - The Healing Of The Dream

§2. The Fear Of Healing

Healing is frightening to many. Damaged bodies are accusers. Who has been injured by a brother, and could trust him still? Protect him not, as your damage shows you must be protected from him. To forgive is an act of charity, but not his due. The unhealed cannot pardon. No one can forgive a sin he believes is real. Forgiveness does not establish sin and then forgive. Pardon and hurt cannot exist together. One denies the other and makes it false. By giving it, you grant mercy but retain proof he is not innocent. **No one in whom true forgiveness rests can**

suffer. Forgiveness cannot be for one and not the other. In healing lies proof he retains no condemnation against himself or any living thing. Forgiveness is not real unless it brings healing. Sins are beyond forgiveness because they entail effects that cannot be undone. In their undoing lies proof they are merely errors. Let yourself be healed that you may be forgiving, offering salvation to your brother and yourself. A miracle of healing proves that separation is without effect. **Everything you think testifies to what you teach.** Here forgiveness is proven. A miracle offers nothing less to him than it gives to you. Your healing shows your mind has healed, and forgiven what he did not do. So is he convinced his innocence was not lost, and he healed with you. The miracle undoes all things the world attests cannot be undone. You are healed because you wish him well. This law miracle obeys; healing sees no specialness. What you wish is given to see. This is interpreted different by the world and by Spirit. The world perceives your salvation as sacrificing his. Spirit knows your healing is witness to his healing, and cannot be apart from his. Your healing is delayed when you pause and listen to insanity. **Consider that every thought extends.** From an idea of self as two, there comes a view of function split. A brother's sins become the target for correction, lest your errors and his be seen as one. Yours are only mistakes; his are sins and not the same. His sins merit punishment; your errors should be overlooked. In this interpretation, your mistakes are not seen. The focus of correction has been placed outside. This is your brother, focus of your hate, unworthy to be part of you and thus outside yourself. Only what is left without his presence will be perceived as you. To this half Spirit must represent the other half until you **recognize** it is the other half. Correction is the function given both, but neither alone. That is divided purpose, and cannot be shared. He will not fill a function he does not see and **recognize** as His. If He holds divided functions, you are lost indeed. Correction must be left to One Who knows correction and forgiveness are the same. With half a mind this is not understood. Leave correction to the Mind that is united, functions as one, and conceives a single function. His single purpose unifies the halves of you that you perceive as separate. Each forgives the other that he may **accept** his other as part of him.

Chapter 27 - The Healing Of The Dream

§3. Beyond All Symbols

Power cannot oppose. Opposition would weaken it. Weak power is meaningless. Power used to weaken is limited and weak. To weaken is to limit, and contradicts what it attacks. Who can understand weakened power or hateful love? You decided your brother is a symbol for hateful love and weakened power. So he has no meaning to you. He represents a double, where half is cancelled. So he stands for nothing. Nothingness cannot be interference. The picture of your brother you see means nothing. There is nothing to attack or hate. The picture has been cancelled, because it was a contradiction to the thought it represents. The picture has no cause. Who can perceive effect without cause? The picture of your brother has never been. True undoing must be kind. So the first replacement for your picture is another picture. Nothingness cannot be pictured. Reality is ultimately known without form. Forgiveness is not yet a power known as free of limits. It sets no limits you have chosen. No learning aid has a use that can extend beyond the goal of learning. In the learning interval it has a use that now you fear, but yet will love. The picture of your brother given you to occupy the space left vacant will not need defended. You will give it preference. Do not delay an instant in deciding that it is the only one you want. You do not know the peace of power that opposes nothing.

Chapter 27 - The Healing Of The Dream

§4. The Quiet Answer

In quiet all things are answered, and every problem quietly resolved. In conflict the purpose is to make no resolution possible. A problem set in conflict has no answer. What would be an answer from one view is not an answer in another. You are in conflict. You cannot answer anything. It is pointless to attempt to solve a problem where the answer cannot be. Attempt not to solve problems except within the holy instant. There the problem will be answered and resolved. Outside there will be no solution, for no answer there can be found. Nowhere outside is a single question ever asked. The world can only ask questions with many answers. It does not ask to be answered,

but to state its view. These double questions ask and answer, attesting the same in different form. The world asks: Of these illusions, which is true? Whatever the form, its purpose is the same. It asks to make sin real. This is not a question, for it tells you what you want. A pseudo-question dictates an answer as it asks. All questioning in the world is a form of propaganda. An honest question is a learning tool. Only within a holy instant can a question honestly be asked. It is only here it can be heard. An honest answer asks no sacrifice. The questions the world asks are of whom sacrifice is demanded. A holy instant is an interval in which mind is still enough to hear. Within the world the answers merely raise more questions. In the holy instant, you can receive the answer that was made for you.

Chapter 27 - The Healing Of The Dream

§5. The Healing Example

The only way to heal is to be healed. The miracle extends without your help, but you are needed so it can begin. It goes forth because of what it is. Its nature is to extend the instant it is born. It is born the instant it is offered. Spirit speaks to you, not someone else. By your listening the Voice extends, because you have **accepted**. Health is witness to health. When demonstrated is it proved, and provides a witness that compels belief. If you wish only to be healed, you will heal. Your single purpose makes this possible. The only thing that is required for a healing is a lack of fear. It means, if only for an instant, you love without attack. From there, each is born into this world as witness to a mind that has transcended conflict. Nothing more than one instant of love without attack is necessary that all this occur. What stands apart from you, when you **accept** the blessing the holy instant brings? If you shrink from blessing, the world will indeed seem fearful. **You have withheld peace and comfort**. Would not a world so bitter be looked on as a condemnation by the one who could have saved it, but stepped back because he was afraid of being healed? The eyes of the dying ones bring reproach, and suffering whispers, "What is there to fear?" Consider well its question. It is asked of you on your behalf. A dying world asks only that you rest an instant from attack on yourself. Come to the holy instant and be healed.

Being blessed, you bring blessing. Healing replaces suffering. Who looks on one cannot perceive the other. Your healing is everything the world requires. Happily your brother will perceive the friends he thought were enemies. Your different problems will be solved when anyone has escaped. Fear not the way that you perceive. You are wrong.

Chapter 27 - The Healing Of The Dream

§6. The Witnesses To Sin

Pain shows that the body must be real. It is an obscuring voice whose shrieks will silence what Spirit says. Pain compels **attention**. Its purpose is the same as pleasure. They both make the body real. What shares a common purpose is the same. Pleasure and pain are equally unreal. Their purpose cannot be achieved. They have a goal without a meaning. Sin shifts from pain to pleasure, and back. Either carries but one sad message: "You are here, within this body." The witnesses of sin are all alike. Call pleasure pain, and it will hurt. Call pain a pleasure, and pain is felt no more. Sin's witnesses shift from name to name. Which is foremost makes no difference. This body holds all memories and hopes. You use eyes to see and let it tell you what it feels. It says the names to use when witnessing. You cannot tell which are real. The truth is found in him if it is truth he represents. Otherwise he lies. Miracle makes no distinctions in names by which sin's is called. It proves what they represent has no effect. Its own effects come to take their place. It matters not the name by which you call your suffering. It is no longer there. A miracle speaks for itself. The miracle forgives because it stands for what is past forgiveness. How insane it is to think a miracle is bound by laws that it came to undo! The laws of sin attest to different sufferings. It is their sameness that miracle attests. It is their sameness it proves. All the laws that call them different are dissolved. The purpose of a miracle is to accomplish this. The holy instant will replace all sin if you carry its effects with you. What better could you serve than this? Be healed that you may heal. Truth will be revealed to you who chose love's symbols to take the place of sin.

Chapter 27 - The Healing Of The Dream

§7. The Dreamer Of The Dream

Suffering is you emphasizing all the world has done to you. It is a demented version. The dreamer is not aware of what brought on the attack against him. He sees himself attacked unjustly by something not himself. He is victim of a thing outside himself. He must be innocent because he knows not what he does, but thinks what is done to him. His attack on himself is apparent, for he bears the suffering. He cannot escape as its source is seen outside. You can escape. All that is needed is to look on the problem as it is, and not the way you set it up. The choice is not difficult, and the problem is absurd if clearly seen. No one has difficulty deciding to let a simple problem be solved if it is seen as hurt, and easily removed. The reasoning by which the world is made is simple. You are the cause of what I do. You justify wrath, and you exist apart. As you attack I am innocent. What I suffer from is your attack. No one who looks on this can fail to see it makes no sense. It seems there is no need to go beyond the obvious in terms of cause. The escape from condemnation is a need those in the world are joined in sharing. They do not **recognize** their common need. Vengeance has a focus. This is the purpose of the world one sees. Looked at thus, the world provides means by which this purpose seems fulfilled. The means attest the purpose, but are not a cause. Nor will the cause be changed by seeing it apart from effects. Look beyond effects. It is not here the cause of suffering is. Dwell not on suffering, for it is a reflection. The part you play in salvaging the world is your own escape. **Remember** the witness to evil cannot speak except for what has seen a need for evil. This is where your guilt was first beheld. In separation from a brother the attack on yourself began. This the world bears witness to. Witnesses to sin stand in one little space. It is there you find the cause of your perspective. Once you were unaware of the cause of what the entire world thrust on you. One thing you were sure of: Of the many causes, your guilt was not among them. Nor did you request them. This is how illusions come about. The one who makes them does not see himself making them. He cannot doubt the reality, as he does not see the part he plays in making. No one can **awaken** from a dream the world is

dreaming for him. He becomes someone else's dream. This is the picture you see; the alternative that you choose if you are not the dreamer of your dreams. **This you choose if you deny the cause of suffering is in your mind.** Be glad you are the one decider of destiny. The choice is yours. Who is free to choose between effects, when only one is seen as up to him? A choice could never be one which is split between a tiny you and a huge world. The gap in reality and dreams lies not between dreaming of the world and your secret dreams. They are one. A brother separated; this you dream. Under this dream is another, in which you are the secret enemy. Here is the cause of suffering. The birth of illusions and disaster are here. You are the dreamer of the world. It has no other cause. Rest in Spirit. Let no pain disturb a dream of appreciation for his gifts to you.

Chapter 27 - The Healing Of The Dream

§8. The Hero Of The Dream

The body is the central figure in dreaming of the world. There is no dream without it. It acts like a person to be believed. The dream tells the story of being made by other bodies, born in the world outside the body, living a little while then dying, to be united in dust with other dead bodies. In the brief time allotted to live, it seeks bodies as friends and enemies. Safety is its concern, comfort its rule. It looks for pleasure, and avoids hurtful things. It teaches itself pains and joys can be told apart. The dreaming takes many forms. The body seeks to prove it is autonomous. It puts things on bought with green paper strips the world proclaims valuable. It tosses them away for things it does not need. It looks for special bodies to share its dream. The body's adventures are the theme for all of dreams the world has. The dream has one purpose, taught many ways. It tries to teach that it is cause and not effect. You are its effect, and cannot be its cause. You are not the dreamer, but the dream. The instant he sees them as they are, they have no effect on him. He understands he caused them. How willing are you to escape effects of dreams? Let no dream appear to be the cause of what you do. Look on the dream's beginning. The part you see is the second, whose cause is in the first. No one asleep in the world can **remember** an attack on self. Look directly at the

cause. The world you see depicts exactly what you thought you did. Except you think what you did is being done to you. Guilt for what you thought is put outside you. It brings its vengeance, not yours. It keeps you in a body that it punishes. You have no power to make a body stop evil. Once you blame them you will not see the cause of what they do, as you want the guilt to rest on them alone. How childish this device is to keep innocence by pushing guilt outside, but never letting go! Without a cause, effects seem serious, yet they always follow. It is the cause that follows nothing. Spirit perceives the cause, and looks not to effects. How else could He correct your error, you who have overlooked cause? You judge effects, but He has judged cause. Effects are removed. **The secret of salvation is this: You are doing this to yourself.** No matter what is the form of the attack, this is still true. Whatever seems to be the cause of any pain and suffering you feel, this is still true. You would not react to figures in a dream if you knew you were dreaming. Let them be hateful, they have no effect on you unless you fail to **recognize** it is your dream. This single lesson will set you free from suffering, in any form it takes. Spirit repeats this all-inclusive lesson until it is learned, regardless of the form of suffering. This one answer takes away the cause of every form of sorrow and pain. Know everyone is like all the rest. See no difference where none exist. Salvation is a secret you have kept from yourself. To its witnesses you pay no heed. They attest what you do not want to know. They keep it secret from you. It is this that has maintained you separate and kept your brother separate. Now learn that both of you are innocent or guilty. The one thing that is impossible is that you be unlike each other; that they both be true. This is the only secret yet to learn. It will be no secret you are healed.

Chapter 28 - The Undoing Of Fear

§1. The Present Memory

The miracle does nothing except undo. It does not add, but takes away. What it takes away is gone, but being in memory, it appears to have effects. This world was over long ago. Thoughts that made it are no longer in the mind that thought them. The miracle shows the past is gone. Remembering a cause produces illusions of presence. The effects of guilt are no more. In its passing went its consequences. Why do you cling to it if you do not desire its effects? Remembering is as selective as perception, being its past tense. It is perception of the past as if occurring now. Memory, like perception, is made by you. It can serve another purpose. It can be used to heal and not hurt. Nothing used for healing represents any effort to do anything. It is **recognition** that you have no needs. All things Spirit employs for healing have been given. They await use. Spirit can make use of memory. **This is memory of the present state.** It is hard to **realize** it is a skill to **remember** now. The limits on **remembering** the world imposes are vast. There is no link of memory to the past. Desire has held it to a time where guilt lingers. Spirit's use of memory is apart from time. Spirit does not seek to use it to keep the past, but as a way to let it go. Memory holds messages it receives, and does what it is given. If it seems to cherish hate, and gives you pictures of hurt, this is what you asked its message be. Associations are made to keep the past alive and the present dead. Effects appear to increase by time. Yet time does nothing. It works with all the other attributes you use to conceal the truth about yourself. Time neither takes away nor can restore. Yet you use it, as if the past caused the present, which is but a consequence in which no change is possible. **Remember** nothing you taught yourself. Who keeps a senseless lesson in mind, when he can learn a better one? When memories of hate appear, **remember** the cause is gone. So you cannot understand what they are for. Be glad that it is gone, for this is what you would be pardoned from. Miracle reminds you of a cause forever present, untouched by time and interference. You are its effect, as changeless and perfect as itself. Its memory does not lie in the past, nor awaits the future. In quietness, see the miracle as a lesson in allowing cause to have its own effects.

The miracle comes quietly into a mind that stops an instant and is still. It reaches gently from quiet time, and from the mind it healed to other minds to share quietness. Born out of sharing, there can be no pause to cause delay in hastening to all unquiet minds. Their own **remembering** is quiet now. Its effects are changeless, eternal, beyond fear, and past sin entirely.

Chapter 28 - The Undoing Of Fear

§2. Reversing Effect And Cause

Without cause there can be no effect, and without effect there is no cause. Effects do not create cause, but they establish its causation. Love must be extended. The nature of the innocent is to be forever uncontained, without barrier. Purity is not of the body. A body can be healed by its effects, which are limitless. All healing must come about because the mind is **recognized** as not in the body. Sickness is an attempt to give effects to no cause, and make it be a cause. In sickness one attempts to make himself his cause. The cause of healing is the Only Cause. It has one effect. A mind in a body and a world of bodies with separate minds, are your creations. You are the other mind, creating unlike yourself. Nothing happened but you have put yourself to sleep. You dream you are alien to yourself. The miracle does not **awaken** you, but shows you who the dreamer is. It teaches is a choice of dreams. Do you wish for dreams of healing, or of death? A dream is like a memory that pictures what you want shown to you. If you are the dreamer, you cause the dream, and can **accept** another. For this change, it must be realized that it is you who dream the dreaming you do not like. **It is an effect you have caused.** In dreams of attack you are the victim in a body. In forgiving dreams no one is victim. These happy dreams the miracle exchanges for yours. It asks you see you made what you would exchange. This world is causeless. No plans are possible. If it has no cause, it has no purpose. The dreamer of a dream is not awake, but does not know he sleeps. He sees himself as sick or well, but without a cause. The miracle shows that you dream, and its content is not true. This is a crucial step in dealing with illusions. The fear was held because he did not see he was author. He fears his own attack, but sees it at another's hands. As victim, he suffers from its effects, but

not the cause. The miracle does nothing but shows he did nothing. What he fears is cause without consequence. Effect and cause are split and then reversed, so that effect becomes cause; and cause, effect. This is separation's final step. The final step is an effect of what went before, appearing as cause. This confusion has produced a dream, and while it lasts **awakening** will be feared. Nor will the call to **awaken** be heard. As with every lesson Spirit requests you learn, the miracle is clear. Now you are free from the dream; the world is neutral, and bodies need not be feared. Miracle shows that, having no effects, it is not cause, because the function of cause is to have effects. Where effects are gone, there is no cause. The body is healed by miracles because they show mind made sickness, and employed the body to be victim. Yet half the lesson will not teach the whole. The miracle is useless if you learn only that the body can be healed. **The lesson is the mind was sick; projecting its guilt caused nothing.** This world is full of miracles. They stand in silence next to suffering. The body is released. **The mind knows this is not done to me, but I am doing this.** Thus the mind is free to make choice.

Chapter 28 - The Undoing Of Fear

§3. The Agreement To Join

What waits beyond salvation is not our concern. You have barely started your first steps up the ladder separation led you down. The miracle is your only concern. Having started, the way will be made simple in the rise up to **awakening**. Without support, the dream fades without effect. It is your support that strengthens it. No mind is sick until another mind agrees they are separate. It is their joint decision to be sick. If you **accept** the part you play in making sickness real, the other mind cannot project its guilt. The body is not perceived as sick by both your minds from separate points of view. Uniting with a brother's mind prevents the cause of sickness and perceived effects. Healing is the effect of minds that join, as sickness comes from minds that separate. To allow your brother to be sick, you have abandoned him to his dream by sharing it. He does not see the cause of sickness where it is, and you have overlooked the gap between you, where the sickness bred. The end of dreaming is the end of fear,

and love was never in the world of dreams. The gap is little. It is a wish to keep apart. The gap is all the cause sickness has. The cause of pain is separation. Separation is empty space, enclosing nothing. Where is the ground for sickness when minds have joined to close the gap? Where the little gap was seen to stand between you, join him. The dream of healing gently shows you that you never sinned. The more one receives, the more is left for all to share.

Chapter 28 - The Undoing Of Fear

§4. The Greater Joining

Accepting Atonement for yourself means to never support anyone's dream of sickness. It means you share not his wish to separate. Nor do you wish that they be turned on you. They have no effects. You are free of dreams of pain as you let him be. Unless you help, you will suffer pain with him. You and a brother both become illusions, without identity. You could be anything, depending on what evil dream you share. You can be sure of one thing; that you are evil, sharing dreams of fear. There is a way of finding certainty here and now. Refuse fear dreams, for you lose identity in them. Find yourself by not accepting them as causing you. You stand apart from them, but not from him who dreams them. You separate the dreamer from the dream. The dream is illusion in the mind. It is the dream you fear, and not the mind. You see them as same, because you think that you are a dream. What is real and but illusion in yourself you cannot tell apart. Your brother thinks he is a dream. Share not in his illusion, for your Identity depends on his reality. Think of him as a mind in which illusions persist. He is not made by what he dreams, nor is his body your brother. Your mind and his are joined in brotherhood. His body and dreams seem to make a gap, where yours joined with his. Between minds there is no gap. Release him by your claim on brotherhood. Let him acknowledge who he is. Be certain, if you do your part, he will do his. His dreams are yours because you let them be. If you see no truth in yours, his dreams will go. Spirit is in both minds. The gap between bodies matters not. No one is sick if someone else **accepts** union with him. Join not your brother's dreams but join with him.

Chapter 28 - The Undoing Of Fear

§5. The Alternate To Dreams Of Fear

A sense of sickness is limitation, splitting and separating. A gap is perceived between you and your brother. So the good is seen outside; the evil in. Sickness separates the self from good. Except as you share, nothing exists. Sharing dreams of hate and loss makes them real. Unshared, they are meaningless. When fear has gone love comes. Where one appears, the other disappears. What you share is the only one you have. You have the one you wish for. Forgiveness separates the dreamer from evil dreams, and releases him. **Remember** if you share a dream, you believe you are the dream. You deny your Self, and walk on alien ground. You war on your Self, which seems to be enemy; and attack your brother. There is no compromise. **You are your Self or an illusion.** You have conceived a little gap between illusions and the truth to be the place where all your safety lies, where your Self is safely hidden by what you have made. Here is a world that is sick and the body perceives. Sights the body perceives are meaningless. It does not know what seeing is. It cannot think and so it cannot have effects. The world you see does not exist. The place where you perceive it is not real. Behold the emptiness of sin that you will see within yourself, when you have lost the fear of **recognizing** love.

Chapter 28 - The Undoing Of Fear

§6. The Secret Vows

Who punishes the body is insane. Here the little gap is seen, yet it is not here. It does not seek pain or pleasure. It cannot tell its purpose or understand what it is for. It does not have will or preference. It has no need to compete. It can be a victim, but not feel as victim. It does what it is told. It is senseless to hold a thing responsible for sight if it cannot see. It suffers not the punishment you give. It behaves as you want. It follows the path which is set. If the path is changed, it walks another way. It can be used for hate, but cannot be hateful. What you fear and want, the body knows not. You send it forth to be separate. You hate its littleness. You despise its acts. It sees and acts for you. You made it a symbol for limits you want your mind to have. You think it is yourself, and without it your self is lost. This

oath you take when you perceive attack. No one suffers if he does not see himself attacked and losing. Unstated and unheard in consciousness is every pledge to sickness. Yet it is a promise to another to be hurt, and attack in return. Sickness is anger taken out on the body, so it suffers pain. It is the effect of what was made in secret, in agreement with another's secret wish to be apart. Unless you both agree that is your wish, it has no effect. By healing is his brother healed. He will keep the promise that you make with him.

Chapter 28 - The Undoing Of Fear

§7. The Ark Of Safety

God asks for nothing. There is no lack. A little gap would be a lack. Space where God is not, a gap between Father and Son, is not the Will. What will can come between what must be One? In Wholeness there is no gap. The beautiful relationship with your brothers is a part of you because it is part of God. You are sick if you deny wholeness and health. Healing will be one or not at all. Oneness is where the healing is. You **accept** it wholly or accept it not. Either there is a gap between you and your brother, or you are one. There is no between, other choice or allegiance to be split. The body is an aid to help you reach home. With this as purpose the body is healed. It is not used to witness to the dream of separation and disease. It will not join a purpose not your own, and you chose that it not be sick. All miracle is based on this choice, and given you the instant it is made. No forms of sickness are immune, because the choice cannot be made in terms of form. The choice of sickness seems to be of form, yet it is one, as is its opposite. You are sick or well, accordingly. But never you alone. This world is but the dream that you can be alone, and think without affecting those apart from you. **To be alone means you are apart, and if you are, you cannot but be sick.** This seems to prove you must be apart. Yet all it means is that you tried to keep a promise to be true to faithlessness. Faithlessness is sickness. What gap can interpose itself between safety and its Source? From here the body can be seen as what it is, and neither less nor more in worth than the extent for which it is used to liberate. With this holy purpose it is made a home of holiness.

Chapter 29 - The Awakening

§1. The Closing Of The Gap

There is no time, place or state that God is absent. There is nothing to be feared. There is no way in which a gap could be conceived of in Wholeness. The compromise the least gap would represent in love is impossible. It would mean Love could harbor a hint of hate, sometimes to attack, and **patience** sometimes to fail. All this you believe, when you perceive a gap between you and your brother. How could you trust Him? He must be deceptive in Love. Be wary, do not let Him come close; leave a gap, thru which you can escape. Here is the fear of God plainly seen. Love is treacherous to those who fear. Fear and hate can never be apart. One who hates is afraid of love, and so is afraid of God. He knows not what love means. He fears to love, so he thinks love is fearful. The greatest obstacle peace must flow across has not gone. The rest are past, but this remains to block you. You decided your brother is an enemy. Sometimes a friend, provided your separate interests made friendship possible a little while. But not without a gap between you and him, lest he again become an enemy. Let him come close, and you jump back; as you approach, he withdraws. It seems to be dividing your separate minds. It is a promise made to meet when you prefer, and separate till you and he elect to meet again. Then your bodies seem to get in touch. But you and he always go separate ways. Conditional upon the right to separate you and he agree to meet, and keep apart, which protects you from the sacrifice of love. The body cannot separate your mind from your brother's unless you want it to be a cause of distance. You endow it with power that lies not in it. Here lays its power over you. Now you think it determines when your brother and you meet, and limits your ability to make communion with your brother's mind. Now it tells you where to go and how to go there, what is feasible for you to undertake, and what you cannot do. It dictates what will tire it and what makes it sick. Its weakness set limits and keeps your purpose limited. The body accommodates this, if you want it so. It will take command of when to love or when to shrink in fear. So you misuse those you meet, and see a purpose not your own. It is not love that asks sacrifice. Fear demands the sacrifice of love. In love's presence fear cannot abide. For hate to be

maintained, love must be feared. Love comes and goes and offers no stability. The body, innocent of goals, is your excuse for variable goals you hold, and force the body to maintain. You fear its lack of strength or weakness. Would you know that nothing stands between you and your brother? There is a shock that comes to those who learn their savior is their enemy no more. There is a wariness that is aroused by learning that the body is not real. Yet all that happens when the gap is gone is peace eternal. Nothing more and nothing less. Can your self be lost by being found?

Chapter 29 - The Awakening

§2. The Coming Of The Guest

Perceive release from suffering and learn you are free. Why does an easy path, so clear it is impossible to lose the way, seem rough and difficult? Is it because you see it as the road to hell instead of a simple way? Until you **realize** you give up nothing you will have regrets about the way you chose. You do not see the gains your choice offered. You **accepted** healing's cause, and so it must be you are healed. Look inward and you will not behold a reason for regret, but cause for rejoicing. It is futile to demand escape from pain from what was made to retain pain. Pain and sin are one illusion, with fear and guilt. They are causeless and love comes where they are not. Why are you not rejoicing? Your Guest has come. You did not hear Him enter. You did not welcome Him. His gifts came with Him. He asks that you take them for your own. He needs help in giving them to all who walk apart. They are healed when you **accept** your gifts. You do not see how much you can give, because you have received. Stability is meaningless to the confused. To change is to attain a state unlike one that you found before. Here on Earth change can be made to teach opposing things. They reflect the teacher. The body can appear to change with sickness. This means the mind is unchanged in belief of the purpose of the body. Sickness demands a body be a thing it is not. It can be thought to feel and act. It can fail to be what you demand. The failure lies in your failure to see it is nothing. Your savior's body's nothingness releases yours from sickness. For what is yours cannot be more or less than what is his.

Chapter 29 - The Awakening

§3. God's Witnesses

Condemn your savior not because he thinks he is a body. Beyond his dreams is reality. He must learn he is a savior before he can **remember** what he is. He must save who will be saved. On saving you depends his happiness. Unless he gives he will not know he has, for giving is the proof of having. Was He made weak because He shared love? You are the proof He is perfect and complete. He must see someone else as not a body and one with him. In the dream of bodies and death is one theme of truth. **You cannot awake yourself.** You can let yourself be **awakened**. You can overlook your brother's dreams. You can so perfectly **forgive his illusions** that he becomes your savior from your dreams. Before this light the body disappears, as shadows give way to light. Whom you forgive is given power to forgive you. By your gift of freedom it is given to you. Make way for love, which you did not create, but which you can extend. On earth this means forgive your brother, that darkness may be lifted from your mind. It was in your face he saw the light that he would keep beside him. See how eagerly he comes, and steps aside from shadows that have hidden him, and shines in gratitude. He is himself, but not alone. The light in you must be as bright as shines in him. This is the spark that shines within the dream; that you can help him **awaken**, and be sure his waking eyes will rest on you. In his glad salvation you are saved.

Chapter 29 - The Awakening

§4. Dream Roles

Do you believe that some truth can be an illusion? Illusions are dreams because they are not true. Their equal lack of truth is also a basis for miracles. Escape depends, not on a dream, but totally on **awakening**. Could it be some dreams are kept, and others **awakened** from? The choice is not between what dreams to keep, but if you want to live in dreams or **awaken**. The miracle does not select dreams to leave. You cannot dream some and wake from some. **You are either sleeping or awake.** Dreaming goes with only one of these. Every dream is a dream of fear, no matter the form. The fear can be disguised as pleasant. The form changes, but cannot be made of something

else. **Attack is your response to function unfulfilled as you perceive the function.** It can be in you or someone else, but where it is perceived it is attacked. Depression or assault is the theme of every dream. The thin disguise of joy they may be wrapped in veils the fear. The dreams you think you like are those in which the needs you ascribe are met. Dreams are desired or not. If it succeeds you like the dream. If it fails you think the dream sad. Whether it succeeds or fails is just the covering. How happy would your dreams become if you were not the one who gave the proper role to every figure the dream contains. Perceptions are determined by purpose. A shadow who attacks becomes a brother giving you a chance to help, if this is the function. Dreams of sadness are turned to joy. What is your brother for? You do not know, because your function is obscure to you. He asks for help in every dream he has, and you have help to give him.

Chapter 29 - The Awakening

§5. The Changeless Dwelling Place

There is a place in you where this whole world has been forgotten. No memory of sin or illusion lingers. The changelessness of Heaven is in you, so deep within that nothing in this world but passes by, unnoticed and unseen. The still infinity of endless peace surrounds you gently in its soft embrace, strong and quiet. Here is the role Spirit gives to you. Nothing is asked of you but to **accept** the changeless and the eternal, for your Identity is there. See in all creation only shining glory. Your brother thinks he holds the hand of death. Believe him not. Learn, instead, how blessed are you who can release him, just by offering him yours. A dream is given you in which he is your savior, not your enemy. A dream is given in which you have forgiven his dreams of death. A dream of hope you share, instead of dreaming evil separate dreams. Why does it seem so hard to share this? Unless Spirit gives a dream a function, it was made for hate, and will continue service. Each form in some way calls for death. When dreams are shared they lose the function of attack and separation. Forgiving dreams step aside from dreaming a world outside you. Thus they lead beyond dreams, to the peace of everlasting life.

Chapter 29 - The Awakening

§6. Forgiveness & The End Of Time

How willing are you to forgive your brother? How much do you desire peace instead of strife? The questions are the same. Forgiveness is peace. Here is the end of separation and the dream of danger, sin and loss. Salvation asks this sacrifice and offers peace instead. What seems eternal will have an end. The stars will disappear, and night and day will be no more. All things that come and go, the tides and the lives of men; all things that change and bloom and fade, will not return. God's Son can never change by what men made of him. He will be as he is, for time appointed not his destiny. Forgiveness will not change him. Change is all that can be made a blessing here, where purpose is not fixed. Think not you can set a goal, and establish it as changeless. You give yourself a purpose you do not have. You cannot remove your power to change your mind. You were not born to die. You cannot change, because your function is fixed. All goals are set in time and change that time be preserved, except one. Forgiveness does not aim at keeping time, but at its ending. Where it once held sway is restored the function established for full **awareness**. Time can set no end to fulfillment. Life's function cannot be to die. It must be extension, that it will be one forever, without end. This world will bind you and kill your body only if you think it was made to crucify God's Son. Even though it was a dream of death, you need not let it stand for this. Nothing here is defined as what you see. How lovely is the world whose purpose is forgiveness! Free from fear, filled with blessing and happiness! A joyous thing it is to dwell in such a place! Nor forget it is a little while till timelessness comes to take the place of time.

Chapter 29 - The Awakening

§7. Seek Not Outside Yourself

Seek not outside yourself. It will fail. You weep each time an idol falls. Heaven cannot be found where it is not, and there can be no peace except there. **Seek not outside yourself**. All your pain comes from a futile search for what you want, insisting where it must be found. What if it is not there? **Do you prefer you be right or be happy?** Be glad that you are told where

happiness abides, and seek not elsewhere. You will fail. It is given you to know truth, and not seek it outside yourself. Everyone who comes here must have a lingering illusion there is something outside that will bring happiness and peace. If everything is in him this cannot be so. Therefore by his coming, he denies the truth about himself, and seeks for more than everything. This purpose he bestows on the body; that it seek whatever he lacks. Thus he wanders aimlessly, believing he is something that he is not. **Seek not outside yourself.** The search implies you are not whole and fear to look. Idols fall because they have no life. Each must fail and decay, because a form of death cannot be life. What is sacrificed cannot be whole. Idols keep the truth within you from being known to you, and maintain allegiance to a dream that you must find what is outside to be complete. God dwells within, and your completion lies in Him. **Do not seek outside yourself.** Forget the purpose the past has given. Otherwise, the future will be like the past. To change all this, you need to decide you do not know the purpose of the world. You give it goals it does not have. You decide what it is for. Save time; learn what time is for. Salvation seeks to prove there is no death, and only life exists. The sacrifice of death is nothing lost. Hope of happiness is not despair.

Chapter 29 - The Awakening

§8. The Anti-Christ

What is an idol? Do you know? Idols are unrecognized, and cannot be seen for what they are. That is their power. You do not know what they are for or why they were made. An idol is an image of your brother you value more than what he is. Be it a body, a thing or a situation, it is the same. Never let their form deceive you. Idols are substitutes for reality. You believe they will complete your little self. You seek beyond yourself for strength. This is the penalty for not looking within for certainty. **An idol is a thought, and cannot leave the mind.** Nor is its form apart from the idea it represents. The world of idols is a veil because it separates your brother and you. What is an idol? Nothing! It must be believed before it comes and is given power. Its life and power are its believer's gift, and this is what the miracle restores to what has life and power worthy of the gift of

eternal peace. The miracle does not restore the truth. It lifts the veil, and lets truth shine. Miracle never needs belief to be itself. An idol is established by belief, and when withdrawn the idol dies. Where is an idol? Nowhere! Can there be a gap where time can interrupt eternity? What purpose has an idol? This question that has many answers, each depending on who the question has been asked of. Each worshipper harbors hope his special deities will give more than other men possess. It does not matter more of what; beauty, intelligence, wealth, even affliction and pain. When one idol fails another will take its place. Be not deceived by forms. More than Heaven you can never have. If Heaven is within, why would you seek for idols that would make Heaven less? Every living thing is a part of you.

Chapter 29 - The Awakening

§9. The Forgiving Dream

A slave of idols is willing. Willing he must be to let himself worship what has no life. What happened that this could be a wish; to fall lower than the stones on the ground, and look to idols to raise him up? Hear your story in the dream you made, and ask yourself if it be not the truth that you believe it is not a dream. In that dream Heaven was changed to hell, and God made enemy. How can God's Son **awaken** from the dream? It is a dream of judgment. He must judge not and he will **awaken**. The dream will last as he is part of it. He who judges needs idols. He cannot know the Self he condemned. Judge not, because you make yourself a part of evil dreams, where idols are your true identity. All figures in the dream are idols. They are what you made to save yourself from. An idol keeps the dream terrible, for who could wish for one unless he were in despair? Judgment is an injustice. In the dream of judgment you attack and are condemned. There can be no salvation in the dream as you are dreaming it. You do but dream. Idols are toys you dream you play with. Everything their toys appear to do is in the minds of those who play with them. They are eager to forget they made the dream. They do not **recognize** the wishes as their own. Their reality becomes his own, as they seem to save him from his thoughts. They keep his thoughts alive and real, but seen outside himself, where they can turn against him. He

thinks he needs them that he may escape his thoughts, because he thinks the thoughts are real. Bad things seem to happen, and he is afraid of all the chaos in a world he thinks is governed by the laws he made. The real world is unaffected by the world you think is real. The real world is still a dream. It is a dream in which no one is used to substitute for something else, nor put between thoughts the mind conceives and what it sees. What was a dream of judgment has changed into a dream where all is joy. Only forgiving dreams enter here. The forms that enter the dream are now perceived as brothers. Forgiving dreams have little need to last. They are not made to separate the mind from what it thinks. They do not seek to prove the dream is dreamed by someone else. In these dreams a melody is heard that everyone **remembers**, though he has not heard it since before time began. Forgiveness, once complete, brings timelessness. Where is time, when dreams of judgment have been put away? When you feel fear in any form be sure you made an idol, and believe it will betray you. **You are fearful if you do not feel a deep content, a certainty and a calm assurance.** Beneath your hope that idols will save you lay the guilt and pain of self-betrayal. Your self-betrayal must result in fear, for fear is judgment, leading surely to a frantic search for idols. Forgiving dreams remind you that you live in safety and have not attacked yourself. Forgiving dreams are kind to everyone in the dream. So they bring the dreamer full release from the dreams of fear. He does not fear his judgment for he has judged no one, nor has sought to be released thru judgment from what judgment must impose. All the while he is **remembering** what he forgot.

Chapter 30 - The New Beginning

§1. Introduction

The new beginning now becomes the core **focus** of the curriculum.

The goal is clear, but now you need specific methods for attaining it.

The speed by which it can be reached depends on this one thing alone: **Your willingness to practice every step.**

Each one will help a little every time it is attempted.

Together these steps will lead you away from dreams of judgment to forgiving dreams and out of pain and fear.

They are not new to you, but they are more ideas than rules of thought to you as yet.

We need to practice them until they are the rules by which you live.

We seek to make them habits so you will have them ready for whatever need arises.

Chapter 30 - The New Beginning

§2. Rules For Decision

Decisions are continuous. You do not always know when you make them. With practice on the ones you **recognize**, a set will form which sees you thru the rest. It is not wise to become preoccupied with every step. **The proper set, adopted each time you wake**, will put you ahead. If you find resistance strong and dedication weak, you are not ready. Do not fight yourself. Think about the kind of day you want, and say there is a way in which this day can happen just like that. Then have the day you want.

1. The outlook starts with this:

Today I will make no decisions by myself.

You are choosing to not be the judge of what to do. You will not judge situations where you will make response. If you judge, you have set the rules. The answer produces confusion. You

make up your mind, and then decide to ask what to do. What you hear may not resolve the problem as you saw it first.

2. Thru the day, any time you have a quiet moment, tell yourself the kind of day you want; feelings you would have, things you want to happen, and say:

If I make no decisions by myself,
this is the day that will be given me.

This practice will let you be directed without fear, for opposition will not arise and become a problem in itself. There will be times you have judged already. Then the answer provokes attack, unless you quickly straighten your mind. This happens if you feel unwilling to sit and ask to have an answer given. This means you decide by yourself, and cannot see the question.

3. Remember again the day you want, and **recognize** something occurred that is not part of it. Then **realize** you asked a question by yourself, and have set an answer in your terms. Then say:

I have no question. I forgot what to decide.

This lets the answer show you the real question. Observe this without delay. You are angry. The day you want is one in which you get your answer. You will not get it, as it will destroy the day. This is hard to **realize** when you decide by yourself. The decision can be undone, by simple methods.

4. If you are unwilling to receive and cannot let your question go, begin to change with this:

I can decide I do not like what I feel.

5. Having decided you do not like how you feel, continue with:

I hope I have been wrong.

This works against opposition. This opening will let you go with more steps to let yourself be helped. You have reached the turning point. It occurs to you that you will gain if what you decided is not so. Until this is reached, you believe happiness depends on being right.

6. This grain of wisdom will take you further. You are not coerced, but merely hope to get a thing you want. You can say in perfect honesty:

I want another way to look at this.

You have changed your mind. Its purpose is not obscured by the insanity of the goal of being right when you are wrong. The readiness for asking is brought to **awareness**.

7. This final step is acknowledgment of lack of any opposition to be helped. It is a statement of an open mind, not certain yet, but willing to be shown:

Perhaps there is another way to look at this.

What can I lose by asking?

You now can ask a question that makes sense, and so the answer will make sense. Nor will you fight against it, for you see it is you who will be helped. It is clear that it is easier to have a happy day if you prevent unhappiness.

This takes practice in the rules that protect you from fear. When this is achieved, the dream of judgment has been undone. **You need to practice rules for undoing.** Consider again the first decisions offered. You can begin a happy day with the determination not to make decisions. This seems a decision in itself. You cannot make decisions. The only question is with what you choose to make them. That is really all.

The rule is not coercion, but fact. You will not make any decisions by yourself. They are made with idols or with God. What you choose will join you and tell you what to do. **Your day is not random.** It is set by what you choose to live it with, and how the friend whose counsel you seek perceives your happiness. You ask advice before you decide on anything. Let this be understood. Decisions cause results because they are not made in isolation. They are made by you and your adviser, for yourself and for the world as well. As you have received, so must you give.

Chapter 30 - The New Beginning

§3. Freedom Of Will

To oppose Spirit is to fight yourself. He tells you only your will; He speaks for you. In His Divinity is your own. All He knows is your knowledge, saved for you that you may do **your** will. God asks that you do your will. Heaven itself but represents your will, where everything created is for you. No spark of life was created but with your glad consent, as you would have it be. Not one Thought that God has ever had but waited for your blessing to be born. God is no enemy. He asks no more than that He hear you call Him Friend. How wonderful it is to do your will! That is freedom. Nothing else should be called by freedom's name.

Unless you do your will you are not free. God ensured that you would never lose your will. Hear now, that you may be reminded and learn your will. God joins with you in willing you be free. To oppose Him is to choose against yourself, and that you are bound. Look once again on your enemy, which you chose to hate instead of love. Thus hatred was born into the world, and the rule of fear established. Now hear God speak, reminding you that it is not your will to hate and be a prisoner to fear, a creature with a little life. Your will is boundless; it is not your will that it be bound. **Remember** Him who has created you, and thru your will created everything. No light of Heaven shines except for you. What causes have you for anger in a world that merely waits for your blessing to be free? If you be prisoner, then God could not be free. For what is done to him whom God loves is also done to God. This world awaits the freedom you give when you **recognize** you are free. It is by your will the world is given freedom. God turns to you to ask the world be saved. By your own salvation it is healed. It is your will to heal, and because you have decided, he is healed. Now God is forgiven.

Chapter 30 - The New Beginning

§4. Beyond All Idols

Idols are specific. Your will is limitless, so it has no form. Idols are limits, and a belief that form brings happiness. It is as if you have no need of everything. This fails to satisfy, as it is your will that everything be yours. Decide for idols and you are asking for

loss. Decide for truth and everything is yours. It is not form you seek. What form can be a substitute for Love? What idol can make two of what is one? **When you decide on the form you want, you lose understanding of purpose.** You see your will in the idol, reducing it to a specific form. Behind the search for idols lies a yearning for completion. Wholeness has no form. To seek a special person or thing to make yourself complete, means that you believe some form is missing. This is the idols function. Sin is the idea you are separated off. So it is necessary to search for wholeness beyond yourself. It is not the idol you want, but what you think it offers. Your will cannot be satisfied with empty form. It is not this you want. Creation gives no separate person or thing power to complete you. Beyond all idols stands a holy will to be what IS. More than whole is meaningless. What idol can he need to be himself? What is not whole cannot make whole. What is really asked for is not denied. Your will is granted. Thoughts are not born and cannot die. The thoughts you think are in your mind, as you are in the Mind which thought of you. Thoughts seem to come and go. Unremembered thought is born again when it returns to **awareness**. It was always there. The Thought is perfectly unchanged by your forgetting. It will always be exactly as it was before you forgot, and will be the same when you **remember**.

Chapter 30 - The New Beginning

§5. The Truth Behind Illusions

You will attack what does not satisfy, and you will not see you made it up. You fight illusions. The truth behind them is lovely and still in gentleness. Were you aware of it you would forget defensiveness, and rush to its embrace. The truth could never be attacked. This you knew when you made idols. They were made that this might be forgotten. You attack false ideas, and never truthful ones. All idols are false ideas you made to fill the gap you think arose between yourself and what is true. You attack them for the things you think they represent. What lies beyond cannot be attacked. The gods you made are toys. The gap that is not there is filled with toys in countless forms. Each seems to break the rules you set. It must appear to break your rules, since the rules were wrong. Appearances deceive because

they are not reality. Dwell not on them. They obscure reality and bring fear. **Do not attack what you made, for you prove you have been deceived.** Attack has power to make illusions real. Yet what it makes is nothing. Who could be made fearful by a power that can have no real effects at all? Appearances deceive the mind that wants to be deceived. You can make a choice that will place you well beyond any deception. You need not be concerned with how this will be done, for you cannot understand. Salvation is a paradox indeed! It asks you that you forgive all things that no one did and to overlook what is not there. You are asked to let your will be done. You are asked to let yourself be free of the dreams of what you never were. Here the dream of separation starts to fade. Here the gap that is not there begins to be perceived without the toys of terror you made. No more than this is asked. Be glad indeed salvation asks so little.

Chapter 30 - The New Beginning

§6. The Only Purpose

The real world is a state of mind in which the only purpose is forgiveness. Fear is not its goal. Escape from guilt is its aim. The value of forgiveness is perceived and takes the place of idols. No rules are set, and no demands made of anyone. There is a wish to understand things as they really are. You **recognize** that things must be forgiven and then understood. Guilt is seen as the sole cause of pain. No one is tempted by its appeal. The possibility of freedom has been grasped, and the means are understood. The world is a place of hope, its purpose is happiness fulfilled. No one stands outside this hope. Not quite yet is Heaven **remembered**. Yet everyone is certain he will go beyond, and he remains but until it is perfect in himself. He has no wish for anything but this. The real world's purpose is gently brought into **awareness**. All that stood between your image of yourself and what you are, the gap between your brother and yourself, was never there. When brothers join in the world of fear, they stand at the edge of the real world. They still look back, and think they see an idol that they want. Yet their path has been surely set away toward reality. When they joined it was Christ's hand they took. He Whose hand you hold waits for

you to join Him. Look back no longer, for what lies ahead is all you ever wanted. Give up the world! What happiness have you sought here that did not bring pain? What moment of content has not been bought at fearful price in suffering? Joy has no cost. **It is your sacred right.** Be speeded on your way and let your experiences here not deceive in retrospect. For he will be delayed when you look back. Look forward, and walk with confidence, with happy hearts that beat in hope.

Chapter 30 - The New Beginning

§7. The Justification For Forgiveness

Anger is never justified. Attack has no foundation. It is here escape from fear begins. The real world is exchanged for terror. On this forgiveness rests. You are not asked to offer pardon where attack is justified. That means you forgive a sin by overlooking what is really there. This is not pardon. It assumes that, by responding in a way which is not justified, a pardon is an answer to attack actually made. You do not forgive the unforgivable, nor overlook a real attack that calls for punishment. Salvation does not lie in unnatural responses that are inappropriate to what is real. It asks that you respond to what is not real by not perceiving what has not occurred. You are asked to see forgiveness as the natural reaction to distress that rests on error. Forgiveness is the only truly sane response. This understanding is the only change that lets the real world rise to take the place of terror. Fear cannot rise unless attack is justified. If it had a real foundation pardon would have none. The real world is achieved when you perceive the basis of forgiveness is real and justified. If it is a gift unwarranted, it must hold guilt. Unjustified forgiveness is attack. This is all the world ever gives. It pardons sinners, but still remains aware they have sinned. This is false forgiveness that the world employs to keep a sense of sin. No one who sees himself guilty can avoid the fear of God. He is saved from this dilemma if he forgives. The mind must think of its Creator as it looks on itself. If you can see your brother merits pardon, you have learned forgiveness is your right as much as his. It is true that you can merit neither more nor less than he. Forgiveness seen as merited will heal. It gives the miracle strength to overlook

illusion. This is how you learn that you must be forgiven too. There is no appearance that cannot be overlooked. If there were, it would be necessary first there be a sin that stands beyond forgiveness. There would be an error that is more than a mistake; a special form of error that remains beyond correction. There would be one mistake that had the power to undo creation, and to make a world that could replace it and destroy the Will of God. Only if this were possible could there be some appearances that could withstand the miracle, and not be healed by it. There is no surer proof idolatry is what you wish for than a belief that there are some forms of joylessness forgiveness cannot heal. That means that you keep idols, and are not prepared to let go. Thus you think some appearances are real and not appearances at all. Be not deceived about a fixed belief that some appearances are harder to look past than others. It always means you think forgiveness must be limited. You have set a goal of partial pardon and a limited escape from guilt for you. What can this be except a false forgiveness of yourself, and everyone who seems apart from you? It must be true the miracle can heal all forms of sickness, or it cannot heal. Its purpose cannot be to judge which forms are real, and which appearances are true. If one appearance must remain apart from healing, one illusion must be part of truth. Salvation rests on faith there cannot be some forms of guilt that you cannot forgive. Look on your brother with hope in you, and you will understand he could not make an error that could change the truth in him.

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§8. The New Interpretation

Would God leave meaning to your interpretation? If He had, it can have no meaning. It cannot be that meaning changes, and yet is true. Spirit looks on the world with one purpose. Only if its aim changes with situations could each be open to a different interpretation every time you think of it. You add elements to the script you write for every minute, and all that happens now means something else. You take away an element, and meaning shifts. Your script reflects plans for what the day should be. You judge gain and loss. All are made according to roles the script

assigns. That they have no meaning in themselves is demonstrated by the ease with which the labels change. Then, looking back, you think you see another meaning. What have you done, except to show no meaning? Only constant purpose can endow stable meaning. It must accord one meaning to all. If they have different meanings, they must reflect different purposes. Perception cannot be in flux, and have stability of meaning. Fear is a judgment never justified. Its presence has no meaning but to show you wrote a fear script, and are afraid accordingly. A common purpose is the only means whereby perception can be stabilized. One judgment is shared by everyone and everything. You offer it to all events. Escape from judgment lies in this; all things have one purpose, which you share with the world. Nothing can oppose it, for it belongs to everything. In a single purpose ends all ideas of sacrifice, which assume a different purpose for one who gains and him who loses. How can communication really be established if the symbols used mean different things? Spirit gives one interpretation. Thus you communicate.

Chapter 30 - The New Beginning

§9. Changeless Reality

Appearance deceives, but is changeable. Reality does not deceive at all. If you fail to see beyond appearances you are deceived. Everything you see will change, and you thought it real before, now you think it real again. Reality is thus reduced to form and change. Reality is changeless. It is this that makes it real, and keeps it separate from appearances. It transcends all form to be itself. It cannot change. The miracle demonstrates that appearances can change because they are appearances. The miracle attests being saved from appearance by showing they do change. All of your brothers are changeless beyond appearance and deception. It is obscured by changing views of him that you perceive as his reality. The miracle is proof he is not bound by loss or suffering in any form, because it can so easily be changed. This demonstrates it was never real. Temptation is a wish to make illusions real. Temptation is a prayer that miracles not touch some dreams, but keep their unreality obscure. **You have limited yourself. You have**

asked for it to be withheld. There is no miracle you cannot have when you desire healing. No miracle can be given you unless you want it. Decide there is not one appearance you would hold in place of what your brother really is. Let no temptations to prefer a dream to enter. Be not guilty and afraid when you are tempted by a dream. Do not give it power to replace the changeless in him in your sight of him. There is no false appearance but will fade, if you request a miracle instead. There is no pain from which he is not free, if you have him be but what he is. Why should you fear to see the Christ in him? **You will behold yourself in what you see.**

Chapter 31 - The Final Vision

§1. The Simplicity Of Salvation

How simple is salvation! All it says is what was never true is not true now, and never will be. The impossible has not occurred, and has no effects. **Only unwillingness to learn could make such a lesson difficult.** How hard is it to see that what is false cannot be true, and what is true cannot be false? You have been told how to tell one from the other, and what to do if you become confused. Why do you persist in not learning such simple things? There is a reason. Confuse it not with difficulty in the simple things salvation asks you learn. It teaches but the obvious. It merely goes from one lesson to the next, in easy steps, with no strain. This cannot be confusing. Somehow you believe that the totally confusing is easier to learn. What you have taught yourself is such a learning feat it is incredible. You accomplished it because you wanted to, and you did not pause to judge it complex. No one who understands what you learned, and the pains you went to practice, could doubt the power of your learning. There is no greater power. Your power to learn is strong enough to teach you that your will is not your own, your thoughts do not belong to you, and you are someone else. **You have taken every step until a world was built that suited you.** The world began with one strange lesson, powerful enough to render one an alien to himself. Spirit's lessons in forgiveness have a power mightier than yours. Each world follows surely from its source. There is no joy you can seek for here and hope to find. You had been deceived by forms the call was hidden in. So you did not hear. Without your answer it is left to die. Hear not the call for this within yourself. Listen to the call beyond appealing for peace. The entire world will give you peace. For as you hear, you answer.

Chapter 31 - The Final Vision

§2. Walking With Christ

A lesson is not overcome by opposing the new and old. It is not vanquished nor fought against. There is no battle; no time to expend and no plans that need be laid. There is an ancient battle against truth, but truth does not respond. Who could be

hurt in such a war, unless he hurts himself? What seems to stand between you and the truth of what you are? What you choose between is not a choice and gives but the illusion it is free, for it has one outcome either way. Leader and the follower emerge as separate, each seeming to hold advantages. You divide yourself in these roles. Everyone becomes a means to help save you. This is what you made your brother into and think this is his purpose. Unless he serves it, he has not fulfilled a function given by you. What could he want, but what you want of him? What you choose you choose for him. Two calls you make to him, as he to you. If he be the leader or be the follower it matters not. If he calls for hate or help, is not the same in outcome. Hear the one, and you are separate from him and are lost. Hear the other, and you join with him and in salvation. The voice you hear in him is but your own. Pause to think of this: **The answer I give my brother is what I am asking for.** What I learn of him is what I learn about myself. Then **wait and be still**, forget everything we heard; **remembering** how much we do not know. This brother neither leads nor follows us, but walks beside us on the same road. He is like us, as near or far away from what we want as we will let him be. We make no gains he does not make with us, and we fall back if he does not advance. Take his hand not in anger but in love, for in his progress you count your own. We go separately along the way unless you keep him by your side. **Be still and listen.** Forget the dismal lessons that you learned. The old will fall away without your intent. There will be no attack on things you thought precious. There will be no assault upon your wish to hear a call that never has been made. Nothing will hurt you in this holy place, to which you come to listen and learn the truth of what you really want. No more than this will you be asked to learn. Forgive your brother of all appearances, which are but sick lessons you taught yourself about sinfulness in you. Hear his call for mercy and release from all the fearful images he holds of what he is and of what you must be. He is afraid to walk with you. He thinks a bit behind, or a bit ahead is be a safer place to be. Can you make progress if you think the same, advancing only when he would step back? This is a way you must go together. In this choice learning's outcome is changed. An instant spent without old ideas of who your companion is and

what he should be asking for will be enough to let this happen. He asks for what you want, and he needs the same as you. It takes, perhaps, a different form in him, but it is not the form you answer to. He asks and you receive, for you have come with but one single purpose: learn you love your brother. Together your joint inheritance is **remembered** and **accepted**. Alone it is denied to both of you. There is confusion, and a sense of endless doubting as you stagger back and forward alone.

Chapter 31 - The Final Vision

§3. The Self-Accused

Only the self-accused condemn. As you make a choice that results in different outcomes, there is one thing that must be overlearned. **It must become a habit of response so typical that it becomes a first response to every situation.** It is here delay of happiness is shortened by a span of time you cannot realize. You hate not your brother for his sins, but for your own. What form his sins appear to take, it obscures that you believe them to be yours. Why are they real in him, if you did not believe that they are your reality? Why do you attack them everywhere? Are you a sin? You answer "yes" whenever you attack, for by attack you assert that you are guilty, and give as you deserve. What can you deserve but what you are? If you did not believe that you deserved attack, it never would occur to you to give attack to anyone at all. What would be the gain to you? Sins are in bodies. They are not perceived in minds. They are seen as actions. Bodies act; minds do not. The body is not seen as passive, obeying commands. If you are sin you are a body, for the mind acts not. The body must act on its own. If you are sin you lock the mind in the body. The body thinks no thoughts. It has no power to learn. It sickens at the bidding of the mind that would become its prisoner. Learning is all that causes change. The body, where no learning occurs, never changes unless the mind prefers. Mind learns, and there change is made. **Be glad you see what you believe, and that it is given you to change what you see.** The body will follow. It does not guard sleep, nor interfere with **awakening**. Release your body from imprisonment, and you will see no one as prisoner.

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§4. The Real Alternative

There is a tendency to think the world can offer escape from problems that its purpose is to keep. It is a place where illusions seem to be the only choice. **You are in control of outcomes of your choosing.** You think a little time is given you; a time when everyone conflicts with you, but you can choose a road away from difficulties that concern you not. They are your concern. How can you escape by leaving them behind? Real choice is no illusion. This world has nothing to offer. All roads lead only to disappointment. There is no choice in its alternatives. Seek no escape here. The world was made that problems could not be escaped. Be not deceived by the different names its roads are given. They have one end. Each is the means, however different they seem. Their end is certain; there is no choice. All lead to death. On some you travel gaily before the bleakness enters. On some thorns are felt at once. The choice is not the ending, but when it comes. There is no choice where every end is sure. Perhaps you would prefer to try them all. The roads seem quite large in number, but the time will come when everyone sees how alike they are. This is not the lesson in itself. The lesson has purpose, and in this you understand what it is for. Why would you seek to try another road? Learn without despair, there is no hope of answer in the world. Make fast your learning now, and understand you waste time unless you go beyond what you have learned. From this lowest point your learning will lead to heights of happiness. Who would be willing to be turned away from all the roadways of the world, unless he understood their real futility? Should he seek another way instead? While he sees a choice where there is none, what power of decision can he use? The great release of power must begin with learning where it really has a use. What decision has power if it be applied in situations without choice? That the learning the world can offer is but one choice, no matter what its form may be, is the beginning of **acceptance** that there is a real alternative. To fight against this step is to defeat your purpose. The search for different pathways is but the search for different forms of suffering. This keeps the truth from being reached. Every road that leads the other way will not

advance the purpose. If this be difficult to understand, then this course is impossible to learn. Otherwise, it is a simple teaching in the obvious. **There is a choice you have power to make when you have seen the real alternatives.** Until that point is reached you have no choice, and you can but decide how you would choose to deceive yourself next. This course teaches no more than that the power of decision cannot lie in choosing different forms of what is still the same mistake. All roads that lead away from what you are will lead you to confusion and despair. A journey from yourself does not exist. How foolish it is to think that there could be a road with such an aim! Where could it go? Forgive yourself your madness, and forget all aims without goals. They have no meaning. You cannot escape from what you are. God is compassionate and merciful. **Nowhere but where He is can you be found.**

Chapter 31 - The Final Vision

§5. Self-Concept Versus Self

The learning of the world is the self adjusted to the world's reality. It fits well; this image suits a world of illusions. What it sees is one with it. Building a concept of self is what the learning of the world does. You come without a self. **The self is made by you, bearing no likeness to you at all.** The self the world teaches is not what it appears to be. It is made to serve two purposes, only one of which the mind **recognizes**. The first presents the face of innocence, the aspect acted on. This face smiles and seems to love. It searches for companions and looks with pity on suffering. It believes it is good in an evil world. This aspect can grow angry, for the world is wicked. This aspect never makes the first attack. Every day makes assaults on its innocence, provoking irritation. The self can tolerate attack in self-defense. The world deals harshly with defenseless innocence. No one who makes a picture of himself omits this face, for he has need of it. The other side he does not want to see. It is here the learning of the world has set its sights, for here the world's reality is set, to see the idol lasts. Beneath the face of innocence is a lesson that the concept of the self teaches. It is a lesson in displacement and fear. The lesson is: "I am the thing you made of me and you stand condemned

because of what I am." Here is a lesson that ensures your brother is condemned. What you are has become his sin. Your finger points to him. It points to you as well. You can be neither blamed for what you are, nor can you change the things it makes you do. Your brother is your sins to you. You are condemning a brother for the thing you are. Concepts are learned. They are not given, so they must be made. Not one of them is true. Concepts maintain the world. They cannot demonstrate the world is real. For all of them are made in the world, born in its shadow, grown in its ways. A concept of the self is meaningless, for no one can see what it is for, and cannot picture what it is. All learning the world directs began with the single aim of teaching you this concept of yourself, so you will choose to follow this world's laws, and never seek to go beyond its roads nor **realize** the way you see yourself. Spirit finds a way to help you see this must be undone. Nor can it be unlearned except by lessons aimed to teach that you are something else. Otherwise you would make exchange of what you believe for total loss of self, and terror would arise in you. Spirit's lesson plans are easy steps. There may be some lack of ease at times; there is no shattering, but a re-translation. **Consider what proof exists that you are what your brother made.** Even though you do not perceive this is what you think, you behave as if it were. Can he see your future and ordain what you should do? He must have made the world as well as you to have sight of things to come. That you are what your brother made of you seems unlikely. There are two parts to what you think yourself to be. If one were generated by your brother, who was there to make the other? If the world be evil, there is no need to hide what you are made of. What but the attacked could need defense? The reason this concept is kept in darkness is that the one who would not think it true is you. What would happen to the world you see if its underpinnings were removed? Your concept of the world depends on your concept of self. There are alternatives about what you must be. You might be the thing you chose your brother be. This shifts the concept of the self from passive, and makes way for acknowledgment that interaction entered in. There is some understanding that you chose for both of you. What he is has meaning given by you. It also shows perception's law that what you see reflects the state

of your mind. Salvation is nothing more than the escape from concepts. It does not concern itself with content of mind, but with the simple statement that it thinks. What can think has choice. It can be shown different thoughts have different consequence. So it can learn that all it thinks reflects the confusion it feels about what it is. **To see a guilt world is the sign your learning has been guided by the world, and you behold it as you see yourself.** The concept of the self embraces all you look upon and nothing is outside of this. If you can be hurt by anything, you see your secret wishes. It is nothing more than this. You will make many concepts of the self as learning goes along. Each will show the changes in your relationships, as your perception of yourself is changed. There will be some confusion every time there is a shift. Be thankful the learning of the world is now loosening its grasp on your mind. Be sure in the confidence it will go at last, and leave your mind at peace. The role of the accuser appears in many forms. The world can teach no images of you unless you want to learn them. There will be a time when images have gone, and you will see you know not what you are. Where concepts of self have been laid by is truth revealed. When every concept has been raised to doubt, and **recognized** as made on nothing that would stand the light, then truth is left free to enter, clean and free of guilt. There is no statement that the world is more afraid to hear than this:

I do not know the thing I am,
therefore do not know what I am doing,
where I am, or how to look upon the world or on myself.
Yet in this learning salvation is born.

Chapter 31 - The Final Vision

§6. Recognizing The Spirit

You will see flesh or will **recognize** spirit. There is no compromise between the two. If one is real the other must be false, for what is real denies its opposite. There is no choice in vision but this. What you decide determines all you see and think is real and hold as true. On this one choice your entire world depends, for it is here you have established what you are. If you choose flesh, you not will escape the body as your reality,

for you have chosen. Choose spirit, and Heaven bends to bless your holy sight, that you may see no more except to heal and bless. If you choose to see the body, you behold happenings that make no sense at all. This appears doomed to suffering and loss. Salvation is undoing. Salvation asks this be your choice. You can see the body without help, but do not understand how to behold a world apart. It is your world salvation will undo, and let you see another your eyes could never find. The veil of ignorance is drawn across the evil and good, and must be passed that both may disappear. How is this done? **Your will be done!** It matters not at all where you believe you are, nor what you think the truth is about yourself. One vision that does not fit the picture as it was perceived before will change the world for eyes that learn to see. The concept of the self has changed. Are you invulnerable? Then the world is harmless in your sight. Do you forgive? Then the world is forgiving. The world is stable, worthy of your trust; a happy place, where nothing need be feared. The truth in you remains as radiant as a star, as pure as light, as innocent as love itself. You are worthy that your will be done!

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§7. The Savior's Vision

Learning is change. Salvation does not use a means alien to your thinking to be helpful, nor to make change you do not **recognize**. Concepts are needed while perception lasts. Changing of concepts is salvation's task. It deals in contrasts, not truth, which cannot change. In this world's concepts the guilty are bad; the good innocent. No one here trusts the good in anyone, believing the bad must lurk. This emphasizes treachery, and trust is impossible. Nor could it change while you perceive the bad in you. You could not **recognize** evil thoughts if you see value in attack. You may perceive them, but not see them as meaningless. So they come in fearful form, with content still concealed, to shake your sorry concept of yourself. You cannot give yourself innocence, for you are confused. If one brother dawns on your sight as wholly worthy of forgiveness, your concept of yourself is wholly changed. Your thoughts have been forgiven with his, because you let them affect you not. You

see him more than a body, for the good is never what the body seems to be. By **focusing** on the good in him, the body grows decreasingly persistent in your sight. This will be your concept of yourself, when you have reached the world beyond the sight your eyes offer. The contrast is far greater than you think. All this shift requires is that you be willing this change occur. No more is asked. **Remember** what your concept of yourself has brought you, and welcome the glad contrast. Alternatives are in your mind to use. **You can see yourself another way.** Your concept of the self stands like a barricade before the truth. All you see are images, as you look on them thru a barrier that dims and warps vision. The light is kept from all you see. What you see is hell, for fear is hell. All is given you for release. Light exists where darkness was, and now the veil is lifted. The veil, fear and the love of guilt all are different names for one error; that there is a space between you and your brother. He holds no concept of himself between his calm and open eyes and what he sees. He brings light to what he looks on, that he may see as it really is. Any form temptation seems to take always reflects a wish to be a self you are not. It will remain your concept of yourself until the wish is no longer held dear. It can look with love or hate, depending on the choice of whether you would join with what you see, or keep yourself apart. The savior's vision is as innocent of what your brother is as it is free of any judgment made on yourself. It sees no past in anyone at all. Thus it serves a wholly open mind, unclouded by old concepts, and prepared to look on only what the present holds. It knows it cannot judge what it does not know. **Recognizing** this, it asks, "What is the meaning of what I behold?" Then the answer is given. Be **vigilant** against temptation, **remembering** that it is an insane wish to make yourself a thing you are not. Think well upon the thing you would be instead. It is a thing of madness, pain and death. This is temptation; nothing more. Can this be difficult to choose against? Consider what temptation is, and see the alternatives you choose between. There are but two. Be not deceived by what appear as many choices. There is hell or Heaven, and of these you always decide to choose but one.

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§8. Choose Once Again

Temptation has one lesson it would teach, in all its forms, wherever it occurs. It would persuade the holy Son of God he is a body, born in what must die, unable to escape its frailty, and bound by what it orders him to feel. It sets the limits on what he can do; its power is the only strength he has; his grasp cannot exceed its tiny reach. Would you be this, if Christ appeared to you in all His glory, asking you but this: Choose if you would take **your** place among the saviors of the world, or remain in hell, and hold your brothers there. How do you make the choice? How easily this is explained! You always choose weakness or strength. You choose what you think is real. Simply by never using weakness to direct your actions, you give it no power. The light in you is in charge of everything you do. You brought weakness unto Him, and He has given you His strength instead. Trials are lessons you failed to learn presented once again, so if you made a faulty choice you now can make a better one, and escape the pain that you chose before. In every difficulty, all distress, Christ calls to you and gently says, "My brother, choose again." He would not leave one source of pain unhealed or any image to veil the truth. Holiness is yours because He is the power that is in you. His strength is yours. The images you make cannot prevail against what God would have you be. Be never fearful of temptation, but see it as another chance to choose again, and let strength prevail in every place you raised an image of yourself before. For what appears to hide the face of Christ is powerless and disappears before holy sight. The saviors of the world, who see like Him, are merely those who choose strength instead of weakness. Learn the happy habit of response to all temptation to perceive yourself as weak and miserable with these words:

I am as God created me.

His Son can suffer nothing. I am His Son.

Replace all your weakness with the strength that can never fail. Thus miracles are as natural as agony seemed before the choice was made. In that choice false distinctions are gone, illusory alternatives laid by, and nothing interferes with truth. What you

behold as sickness and as pain, as weakness and as suffering and loss, are but temptation to perceive yourself defenseless. Yield not, and you will see all pain, in every form, disappear as mists before the sun. Choose once again what you would have him be, **remembering** that every choice you make establishes your own identity as you will see it and believe it. There is no place for hell in a world whose loveliness can be intense and inclusive. To tired eyes you bring a vision of a different world, so new and fresh you will forget the pain and sorrow you saw before. This is a vision you must share with everyone you see or you behold it not. To give this gift is how to make it yours. Let us be glad that we can walk the world. Thus will all the vestiges of hell, the secret sins and hidden hates be gone. All the loveliness which they concealed appear like lawns of Heaven to our sight, to lift us high above the thorny roads we travelled. Hear me, my brothers, hear and join with me. For you will hear, and you will choose again. In this choice everyone is made free. In joyous welcome a hand is stretched to every brother who joins in reaching past temptation, and looks with determination toward the light that shines beyond.

I give thanks for what my brothers are. As each elects to join with me, the song of thanks grows from tiny scattered threads to one inclusive chorus from a world redeemed. Now the journey closes, ending at the place where it began. No trace of it remains. Not one illusion is accorded faith, and not one spot of darkness still remains. Thy Will is done, complete and perfectly, and creation **recognizes** You, the only Source it has. Clear in Your likeness the light shines forth from everything that moves in You. We have reached where all of us are one, and we are home, where You would have us be.

*Everything has now been said,
But because no one listens,
They always have to start over at the beginning.*

***Remember to recognize**
your need to exercise constant
vigilance and **attention**
to **focus** and the
creation of **patience**.*

(Or the Last Step will not occur.)

Let there be Light!

